GRIM REAPER AND 4 GIRLFRIENDS
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STORY BY SHIN SUYAMA ART BY CHiN

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1

STORY BY SHIN SUYAMA ART BY CHUN
[Friendly Land]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

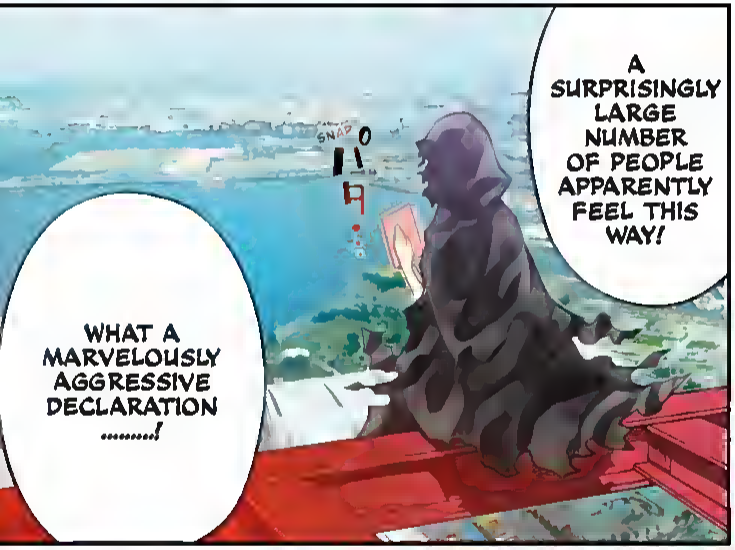
APPEAL 1: I'LL BE A **REAL**-LIFER...3

APPEAL 2: I FOUND MYSELF FOUR **GIRLFRIENDS**...57

APPEAL 3: **PICK** OF THE LITTER...103

APPEAL 4: A **VOICE** CALLING FROM BEYOND...147

WHY DON'T THEY ALL JUST EXPLODE !?
REAL-LIFERS CAN GO DIE!


A SURPRISINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE APPARENTLY FEEL THIS WAY!
WHAT A MARVELOUSLY AGGRESSIVE DECLARATION .....!

... THERE WE GO.

...LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT IT'S THEY WHO WILL DIE.....

APPEAL 1: I'LL BE A REAL-LIFER

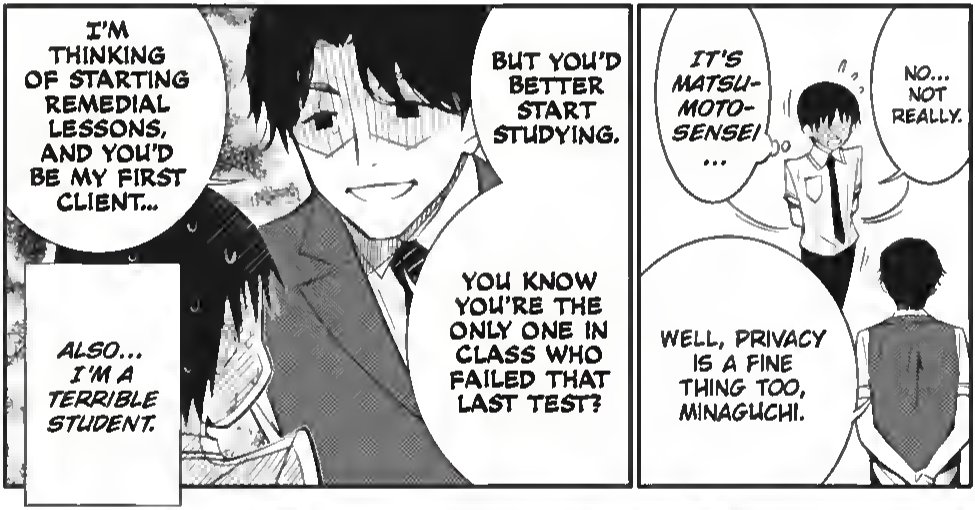
I'M A SECOND-YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
MY NAME IS KAORU MINA-GUCHI.
JUST AN INCREDIBLY AVERAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING REMARKABLE ABOUT ME.

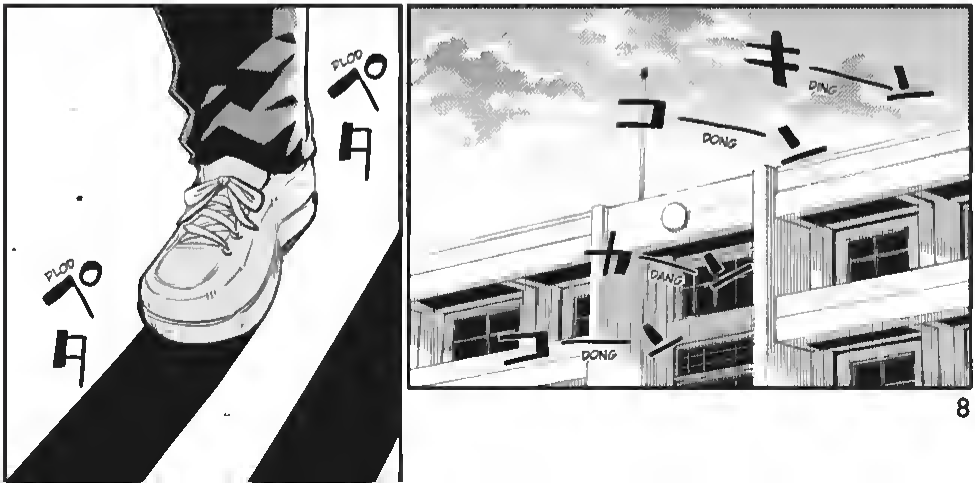
BOOK: KIMI HE TODOKE

AH. THE PANSY.
AHH... ♡
I'M SO GLAD KUROSAWA-KUN AND HAYAKO-CHAN MADE UP... ♡
JUST IMAGINING THEM BREAKING UP GAVE ME THE CHILLS...!
OTHER DAY I ASKED HIM, "IF YOU'RE A MAN, YOU MUST BE INTO HAREMS, RIGHT?"
HE SAID, "NOT REALLY."
UWAHH. THE HELL? TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL?
READING GIRLY MANGA AGAIN?
HE REALLY MUST SWING THAT WAY.
ANY REAL MAN DREAMS OF GETTING CHICKS.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING! KID MUST NOT BE INTERESTED IN WOMEN...!

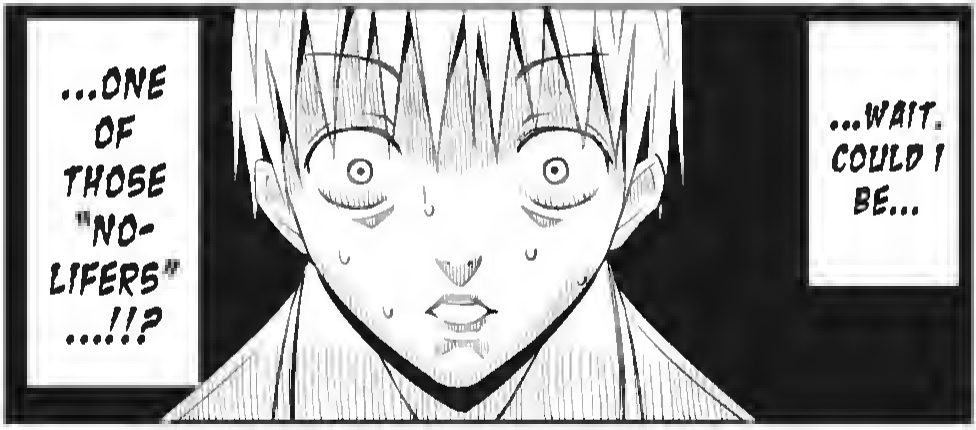
...LET ME REVISE THAT.
EVERYONE IN CLASS CALLS ME A PANSY.
NATURALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
EITHER THAT, OR "HOMO"...
STEP
STEP
STEP
WHAT THE HECK ...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A BOY READING GIRLS' MANGA?
IT'S NOT ALL THAT RARE NOWADAYS ....!
MEN JUST WANNA GET CHICKS?
MEN DREAM OF HAVING HAREMS?
A REAL MAN...
...SHOULD PURSUE TRUE LOVE WITH A SINGLE GIRL!!!

THAT POWER POSE MUST MEAN SOMETHING GOOD'S HAPPENING.
OH, WHAT'S GOING ON, MINAGUCHI!?
JUST LIKE IN THE MANGA STORIES ABOUT TRUE LOVE...


I'M THINKING OF STARTING REMEDIAL LESSONS, AND YOU'D BE MY FIRST CLIENT...
ALSO... I'M A TERRIBLE STUDENT.
BUT YOU'D BETTER START STUDYING.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN CLASS WHO FAILED THAT LAST TEST?
IT'S MATSU-MOTO-SENSEI ...
NO... NOT REALLY.
WELL, PRIVACY IS A FINE THING TOO, MINAGUCHI.


PLOD
PLOD
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DANG
コーン
DONG

...AND I'M IN THE "DIDN'T JOIN A CLUB" CLUB.
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF...
...I SUCK AT SPORTS, I'VE GOT NO SKILLS...
HAVEN'T EVEN CRUSHED ON ANY GIRLS SINCE FOURTH GRADE...


...ONE OF THOSE "NO-LIFERS" ...!!?
...WAIT. COULD I BE...

...WELL, WHATEVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE BEING A NO-LIFER EVER KILLED ANYONE...

BESIDES, MY FUTURE MIGHT HOLD...
...A PLOT STRAIGHT OUT OF MY MANGA STORIES.
A FATEFUL ENCOUNTER WITH TRUE, STIMULATING LOVE MIGHT AWAIT ME.
NO-LIFER? NOT FOR LONG!
...OR SO I'D LIKE TO THINK...
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

YES.
HUH... TO ME...?
YES, I AM ACTUALLY TALKING TO YOU.
WHAT THE...?
.....?
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT UNIFORM... IS SHE FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL...?
THIS GIRL'S A COMPLETE STRANGER...
LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING.

ARE YOU A REAL-LIFER? OR ARE YOU...
WHOA. CLOSE...
UWAHHH. NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A GIRL BEFORE...
BUT WOW. SHE'S CUTE...
S-SO CLOSE...
MAY I?
Hmm?
HUH!?
WELL, WHICH IS IT?
UH... UMM.

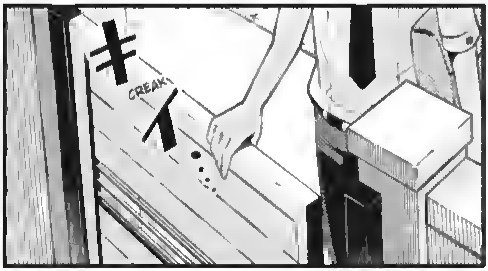
PWIP
UM...
HUH?
DASH
DASH
DASH
C-CAN'T DO IT!!
WHEN I'M THAT CLOSE TO A GIRL...
...THE "TALKING" PART OF MY BRAIN SHUTS DOWN!!
DASH
AH.

HMPH...

ALONE
ポ
...

SO THAT'S HOW HE'S GONNA PLAY IT.....

RUNNING AWAY LIKE THAT...
WHAT A TOTAL CHICKEN I AM.

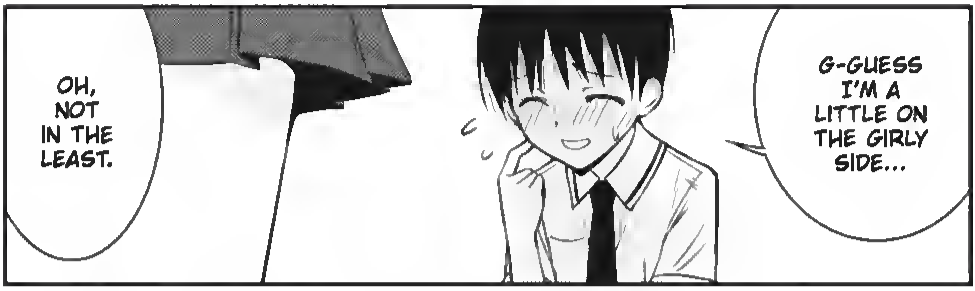

キィ
CREAK...

BUT... GETTING TOO CLOSE IS AGAINST THE RULES ...
I CAN HOLD A BASIC CONVERSATION WITH A GIRL IN CLASS, IF NEED BE.
IT'S NOT AS IF I DON'T LIKE GIRLS...
UGH ...
IF THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME BLOW A FUSE...
...THEN TRUE LOVE'S NOTHING BUT A DISTANT DREAM FOR ME...
CLOSE
OPEN
...SHE SURE WAS CUTE THOUGH.
PHEW.
CLICK

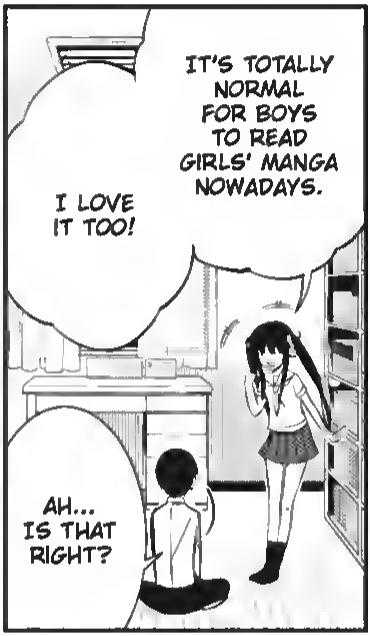
!!?
WOW!
SO THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, KAORU-SAN.
SH-SHE FOLLOWED ME...!?
SHE'S TOO GOOD AT SUPPRESSING HER POWER LEVEL...
AH.
I NEARLY FORGOT TO SAY...
PARDON ME.
OH.
AH, RIGHT. COME ON IN...
WOW.
SHE CAME ON IN!!
CRAP...I'M LOSING IT AGAIN...

I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THIS GIRL BEFORE...
...NO.
BUT SHE KNOWS MY NAME... WHICH MEANS...
...SHE CAN'T BE... A COMPLETE STRANGER, RIGHT?
DID SHE GET A PEEK AT MY FAMILY REGISTRY SOME-WHERE...?
MAYBE AN ACQUAINTANCE? AND I JUST DON'T REMEMBER ...?
KAORU-SAN.
WHERE'S YOUR ROOM, KAORU-SAN?
AH... HOLD ON.
I'LL BRING YOU THERE.
WELL, WHATEVER THE CONNECTION ...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO KICK HER OUT NOW, RIGHT...?
SHE'S POLITE AND ALL.
AND DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GIRL.

THIS COULD BE THE GATEWAY TO MY LONG-DESIRED TRUE LOVE!!
AND WHAT IF THIS IS A FATEFUL ENCOUNTER?
BADUM
BADUM
WOW.
SO MUCH GIRLS' MANGA!
YOU LIKE THESE?
AH... YEAH.


G-GUESS I'M A LITTLE ON THE GIRLY SIDE...
OH, NOT IN THE LEAST.

FURUPA— THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
WE SHARE AN INTEREST ...
I'M FEELING THE PULL OF DESTINY, HERE...


IT'S TOTALLY NORMAL FOR BOYS TO READ GIRLS' MANGA NOWADAYS.
I LOVE IT TOO!
AH... IS THAT RIGHT?

A CLASS-MATE FROM ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL !?
OR A LONG-LOST CHILD-HOOD FRIEND ...?
CRUD... I'VE GOT NO CLUE...

SO WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER HER!!
JUST... WHO IS THIS GIRL!?

FWUMP
ぽふっ
HUH?
OH, RIGHT!
I ALMOST FORGOT WHY I'M HERE!

FROM THE START... SHE SEEMED TO HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME...
OH YEAH...

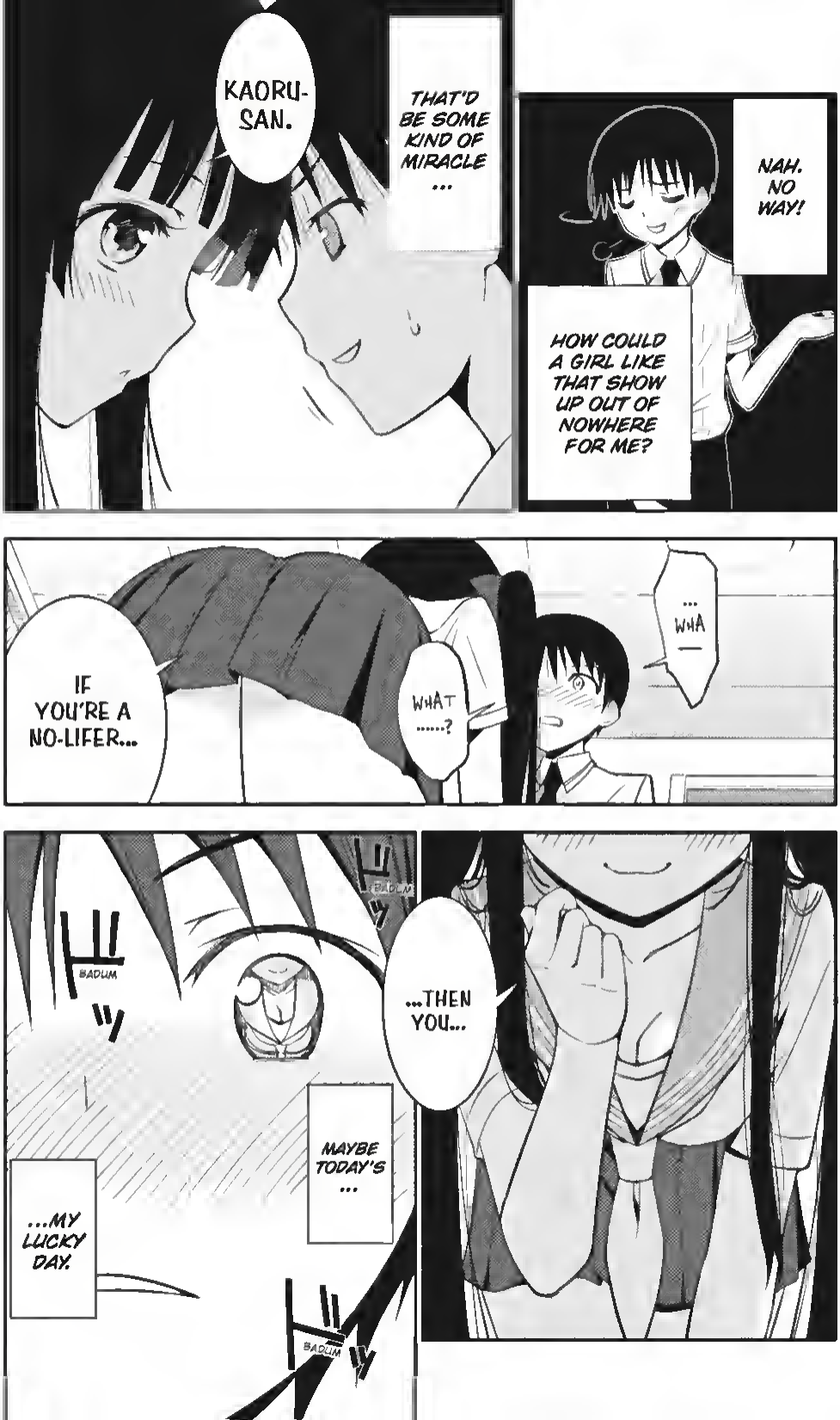
ARE YOU A NO-LIFER, KAORU-SAN?

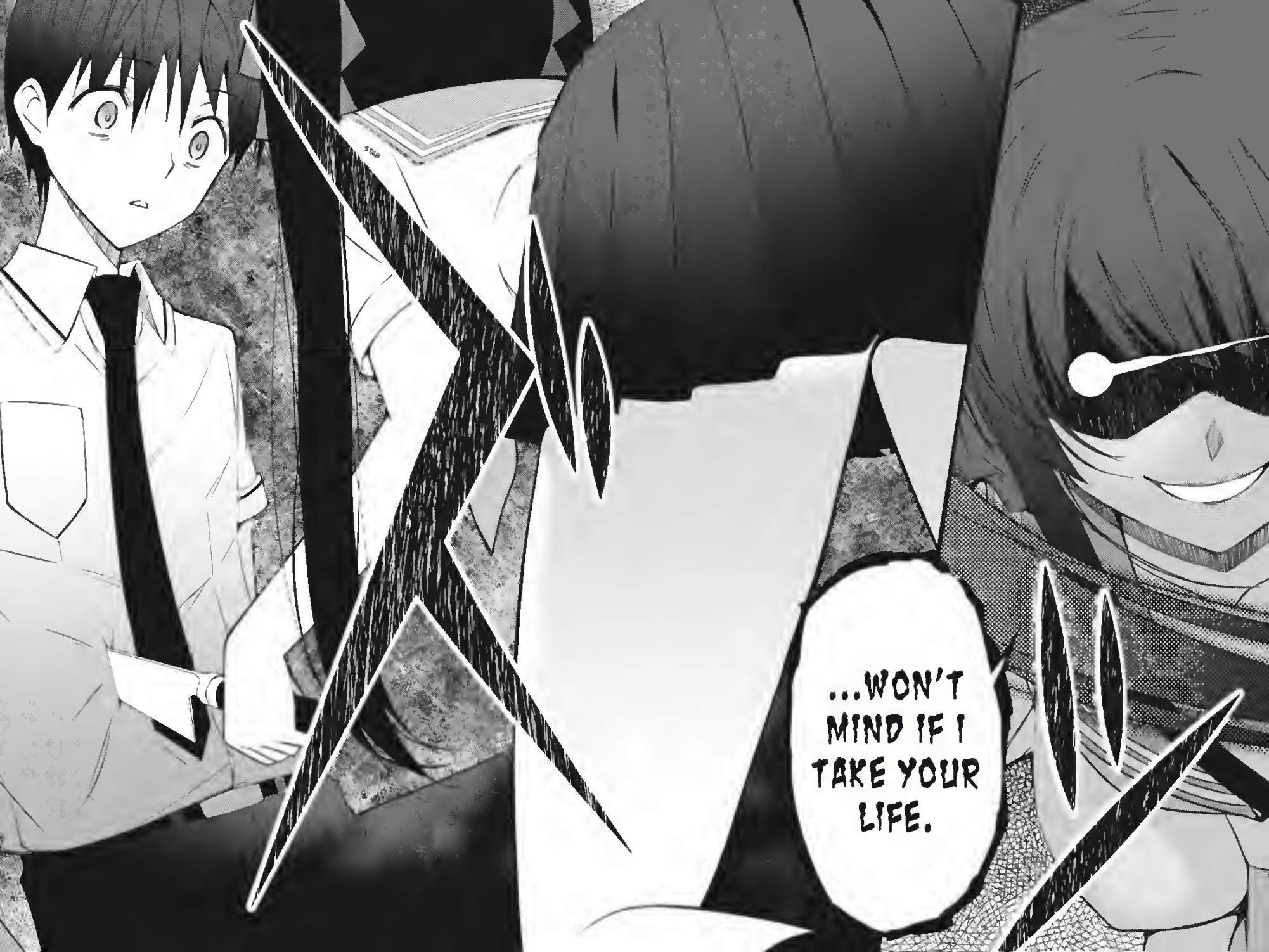
... WHAT?
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT?
OH, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, YOU SEE.
... WELL ...
NO REASON TO PUT ON AIRS, I GUESS...
...UMM ...
IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE, THEN, YEAH NO-LIFER...
ALL RIGHT !!
IN WHAT SENSE!?
HOW WOULD YOU SAY YOU'RE A NO-LIFER!?
WHA— UMM...
I'VE... GOT NO FRIENDS...
WHAT ELSE!?
.....I SUCK AT SCHOOL AND SPORTS.
I'VE GOT NO SKILLS WORTH MENTIONING ...

HOW ABOUT A RELATION-SHIP!?
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
MM... NOPE...
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I'M NOT EVEN CRUSHING ON ANYONE...
You're a perfect specimen of a no-lifer!!
This is wonderful!
...WHA- WHAT THE HECK?
YES! I'M THRILLED!
YOU SEEM A LITTLE TOO HAPPY ABOUT MY MISERY...
...SO HONEST ABOUT IT...
... BECAUSE ...

...I COULDN'T HAVE EVEN COME IN...
...IF YOU WEREN'T A NO-LIFER, KAORU-SAN...
IF I THINK ABOUT IT.....
...WAIT A SEC ...
LET'S SAY SHE'S A PAST ACQUAIN-TANCE.
...WHEN HIS PARENTS AREN'T HOME...
A GIRL WHO COMES UP TO A BOY'S ROOM LIKE THIS...

...MUST HAVE CERTAIN FEELINGS TO MOTIVATE THIS KIND OF ACTION.....


KAORU-SAN.
THAT'D BE SOME KIND OF MIRACLE ...
NAH. NO WAY!
HOW COULD A GIRL LIKE THAT SHOW UP OUT OF NOWHERE FOR ME?
IF YOU'RE A NO-LIFER...
WHAT .....?
... WHA —
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
...MY LUCKY DAY.
MAYBE TODAY'S ...
...THEN YOU...


...WON'T MIND IF I TAKE YOUR LIFE.

HUH
.....
HUH?
STAB
STAB
STAB
UWAH!
AH!
AH!
AHH!

IT HURTS.
IT HURTS ...
IT HURTS.
THIS ISN'T A DREAM —
WHAT ?
BADUM
WHAT IS THIS?
BLOOD.
BLOOD IS...
BADUM
SO MUCH ...
BADUM
BUT... WHY ...?
HEY ...
WHAT'D I...EVER DO TO YOU.....?

I'M A GRIM REAPER, YOU SEE.
... HUH?
NOT THAT I'D EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME JUST LIKE THAT.
BUT, WELL, BELIEVE ME OR NOT, I COULDN'T CARE LESS.
BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'LL BE DEAD IN A FEW MINUTES.
UHH .....
SLUMP
OH? OR MAYBE SOONER THAN THAT.

PAT
PAT
PAT
BECAUSE NO-LIFERS ARE DOOMED TO DIE. ♡
IF YOU ARE... A GRIM REAPER ...
...THEN WHY ME...?
THEN LEMME TRY TO HELP YOU OUT.
YOU WANNA DIE SATISFIED, LIKE THEY DO IN MANGA? ♡
WAGGLE
WAGGLE
AH.
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?
...WHAT...? WHAT KIND OF REASON IS THAT...?
BUT THOSE NASTY NO-LIFERS?
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S RARE TO FIND ONE WHO'S GOOD FOR ANYTHING.
HUMANS ARE SPLIT INTO REAL-LIFERS AND NO-LIFERS.
AMONG THE REAL-LIFERS, MANY ARE USEFUL TO HUMAN SOCIETY.
FWIP

IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THOSE USEFUL REAL-LIFERS...
...THE USELESS NO-LIFERS HAVE TO BE PURGED.
THAT'S JUST THE POLICY WE REAPERS FOLLOW. ♡
WHAT THE HECK ...
EVEN NO-LIFERS...
"EVEN NO-LIFERS CAN BE USEFUL"?
... WHA—
MAYBE. BUT THERE'RE TOO FEW OF THEM TO MATTER.
THAT MINORITY GETS TOSSED OUT WITH THE REST OF THE TRASH.
I HEAR THAT'S HOW HUMAN COMMUNITIES OPERATE TOO.

EVERYTHING'S GETTING DARK...
IT'S REALLY HAPPENING ...
CRAP ...
AND SINCE YOU'RE A NO-LIFER...
NOBODY'LL MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE ♡
I'M REALLY GONNA DIE...
THUMP
JUST LIKE THAT...
IN A FLASH ...
I WAS PLANNING ...
...GOING FORWARD, ANYWAY ...
... TO BE ONE ...
I WANTED ...
AT THE VERY LEAST ...
...TO BE A REAL-LIFER.
JUST MAYBE.

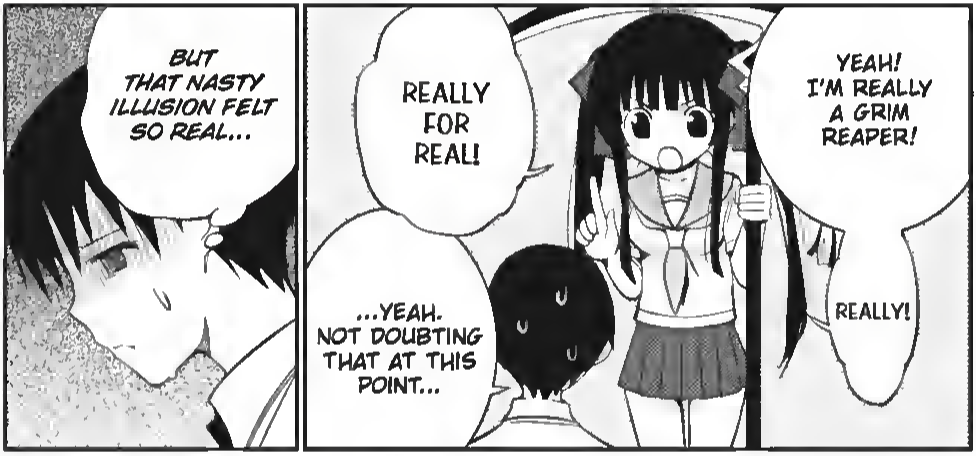
HUUUUH?
NOTHING!
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
THAT WAS NOTHING !!!
.....
HUH?
UM.
UMM ...

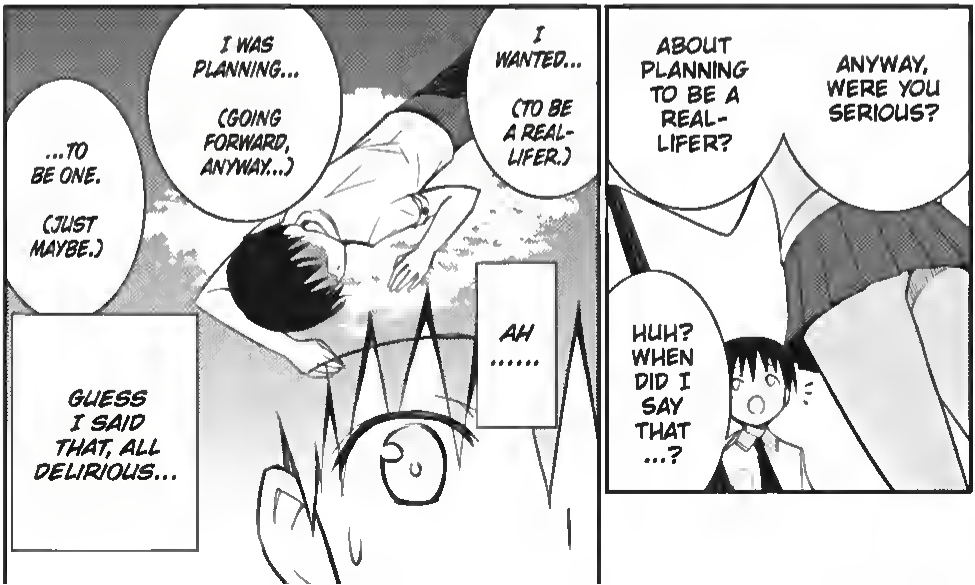
キュポン
POP
HUH ...?
WHA—
WHAT ...?
スリ
SLIP
THAT STAB WOUND ...
IT'S ALL CLOSED UP .....
YOU GOTTA TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN ADVANCE!!
GEEEZ!!
GEEZ!
WH-WHY'RE YOU MAD AT ME .....?

IF I REAP SOMEONE WHO MAKES PLANS TO BECOME A REAL-LIFER AS THEY'RE BEING REAPED...
HOW WOULD YOU MAKE UP FOR THAT IF YOU'D DIED JUST NOW?
NO APOLOGY WOULD CUT IT. I'D NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
I'M ON A STARTING SALARY, HERE!
...I GET PENALIZED WITH A SERIOUS PAY CUT!!!
...BUT WAIT...

I WAS SURE I WAS DEAD...
JUST AN ILLUSION MADE BY MY SCYTHE!
THAT MUCH BLOOD...
ALL WE REAPERS DO IS SUCK OUT SOULS WITH OUR SCYTHES!
...THE PERSON GETTING THEIR SOUL SUCKED IS S'POSED TO SEE THEMSELVES DYING!
MEAN-WHILE...

BY MAKING THE TARGET THINK AND FEEL LIKE THEY'RE DYING...
...IT MAKES THE SOUL THAT MUCH EASIER TO RIP FROM THE BODY...
... ILLUSION ...?


BUT THAT NASTY ILLUSION FELT SO REAL...
REALLY FOR REAL!
...YEAH. NOT DOUBTING THAT AT THIS POINT...
YEAH! I'M REALLY A GRIM REAPER!
REALLY!


I WAS PLANNING... (GOING FORWARD, ANYWAY...)
I WANTED... (TO BE A REAL-LIFER.)
...TO BE ONE. (JUST MAYBE.)
AH .....
GUESS I SAID THAT, ALL DELIRIOUS...
ABOUT PLANNING TO BE A REAL-LIFER?
ANYWAY, WERE YOU SERIOUS?
HUH? WHEN DID I SAY THAT ...?

NAH, THAT WAS JUST...
"IF I REAP SOMEONE WHO MAKES PLANS TO BECOME A REAL-LIFER AS THEY'RE BEING REAPED, I GET PENALIZED."
DON'T TELL ME...
...MY LIFE DEPENDS ON MY ANSWER...?
GULP
YUP... FOR SURE.
DEFINITELY GONNA BE A REAL-LIFER.
WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW? I NEED DETAILS.

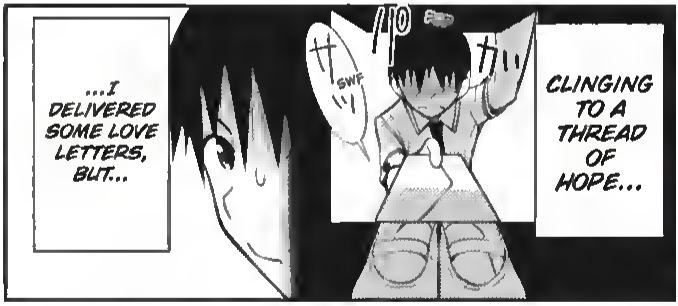
LATELY THERE'S THIS ONE GIRL I'VE THOUGHT IS SUPER CUTE.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT ASKING HER OUT TOMORROW.
TEN TO ONE SHE'LL AGREE TO GO OUT WITH ME.
UMM ...
TOMORROW... DEFINITELY TOMORROW... YUP.
WHAT THE HECK DID I JUST BLURT OUT !!?
I HAVEN'T CRUSHED ON ANYONE SINCE FOURTH GRADE!
OKAY ...
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU ALL DAY TOMORROW.
HUH?

IF YOU DON'T MANAGE TO BECOME A REAL-LIFER BY THE END OF TOMORROW...
...THEN PREPARE TO DIE. ♡

NO POINT IN REGRETS NOW THOUGH...
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
MY VERY LIFE IS DEPENDING ON THIS .....
I'M NOT EVEN FRIENDLY WITH ANY GIRLS, AND NOW I'M GONNA DATE ONE?
I SET THAT HURDLE TOO HIGH!!
SHOULD'VE COME UP WITH A MORE REALISTIC LIE...
AHH ...
I'M SUCH A DUMB-ASS ...
LEAP

...I'VE GOTTA ASK A GIRL OUT!!
JUST GOTTA PRAY FOR A MIRACLE...
TOMORROW ...

BADUM
ドキ
BADUM
ドキ


...I DELIVERED SOME LOVE LETTERS, BUT...
SWF
CLINGING TO A THREAD OF HOPE...

...I WONDER IF THEY'LL SHOW...
キーン
コーン
カーン
DING
DONG
DONG
DONG

PAST THAT, EVEN...
18:25
...IT'S ALREADY THE TIME I SPECIFIED .....

UGH...
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...
ANYBODY WOULD BE WARY OF RESPONDING.
WE'RE TALKING LOVE LETTERS FROM A STRANGER, HERE.
MINA-GUCHI-KUN?
THEY'RE PROBABLY STARTING RUMORS ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW...
あ あ AHH.
あ あ あ... AHHHH...

MINA-GUCHI-KUN...
...THAT'S YOU, RIGHT?
YOU GAVE ME THIS...

ALL THE SAME THOUGH...
BADUM
WHICH IS SHE.....!?
POP
SHE CAME ...!!?
Y-YES.
THANK YOU... FOR THE LETTER...
ISN'T IT NORMAL ...
...TO AT LEAST KNOW EACH OTHER FIRST?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND...
WELL, DUH...
GETTING A LOVE NOTE FROM A DUDE YOU'VE NEVER SPOKEN TO MUST BE FREAKY.....
THAT'S ...
...A LITERAL DEATH KNELL
A ROUND-ABOUT WAY OF REJECTING SOMEONE...

DID I ACCEPT TOO EASILY ...?
DO YOU HATE ME, MINAGUCHI-KUN...?
...DID I...
...NO.
...I GUESS.
WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER GOING FORWARD...

NOT AT ALL!!
THAT'S TOTALLY FINE!
I MEAN, IF WE'RE GONNA BE DATING, SENPAI...
Y-YOU REALLY MEAN IT...?
YES.
MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
.....IN THAT CASE...
...LET'S DO SOMETHING THAT LOVERS WOULD DO.....
HUH?
LIKE EXCHANGE NUMBERS... HOW'S THAT SOUND?
AH... SURE.
WHAT THE...GOT SCARED FOR A SECOND...

R-RIGHT...
THAT'S ALL...FOR TODAY...
OKAY... GOOD.
...DID IT...
I...
I'M GONNA BE A REAL-LIFER ...!!
I DON'T HAVE TO DIE ...!
AND SOMEHOW I'VE EVEN GOT A GIRL-FRIEND...
IT'S MY FIRST STEP ...
CLENCH
... TOWARD TRUE LOVE ...!!

MINA-
GUCHI-
KUN.

...YOUR
LETTER.
FWIP
I
READ
...

I'M PREPARED .....
...TO BEGIN A RELATION-SHIP.
THE SECOND ONE
MINA-GUCHI!
BEEP BEEP

HMPH .....
SURE, I GUESS I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU!!
THE THIRD ONE
MINA-GUCHI-KUN.
TMP
TMP
TMP
BEEP

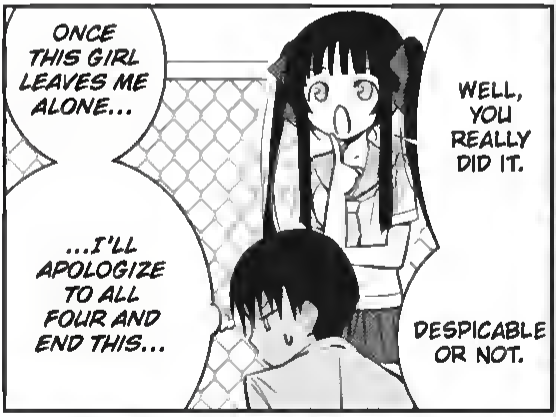
IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT...
...I'D BE THRILLED !!
THE FOURTH ONE
BEEP
WAVE
WAVE
UWAHHH!

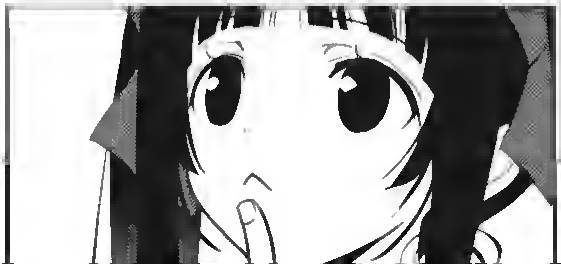
GUESS THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS ...
...TO BE A REAL-LIFER.
HOW MUCH REALER CAN YOU GET?
EVEN A REAPER LIKE ME IS SHOCKED, FRANKLY.
YOU FOUR-TIMER.
WHAT A DESPICABLE GUY YOU ARE.
NOOOOOOO...
BLOODY TEARS
...OOOOOOO!!!

SO I GAVE LETTERS TO THE FOUR GIRLS WHOSE NAMES I ACTUALLY KNEW.
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED !!
I WAS SURE MY ODDS OF GETTING A "YES" WERE ZERO.
BUT MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
Y'KNOW, IN THE HOPES OF RAISING MY ODDS JUST A LITTLE...

THIS STILL MEANS I'M A REAL-LIFER, RIGHT!?
B-BUT!
THE FOUR GIRLS PROBLEM ASIDE...

SO NOW YOU'RE A GROSS, FOUR-TIMING ASSHOLE.
UGH...
THE PLANETS MUST'VE ALIGNED TO MAKE ALL FOUR SAY YES...


ONCE THIS GIRL LEAVES ME ALONE...
...I'LL APOLOGIZE TO ALL FOUR AND END THIS...
WELL, YOU REALLY DID IT.
DESPICABLE OR NOT.



JUST HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE...
HMPH.
IT'S FINE. I WANTED TO SIGHT-SEE IN AKIBA ANYWAY.

THAT'S MY SOUL-REAPING TIME LIMIT.
I'VE GOT THREE MONTHS, NOW.
... HUH?

UH?
ぴょこっ
SKIP
MY NAME'S AIRI, BY THE WAY!
AH... GOTCHA.

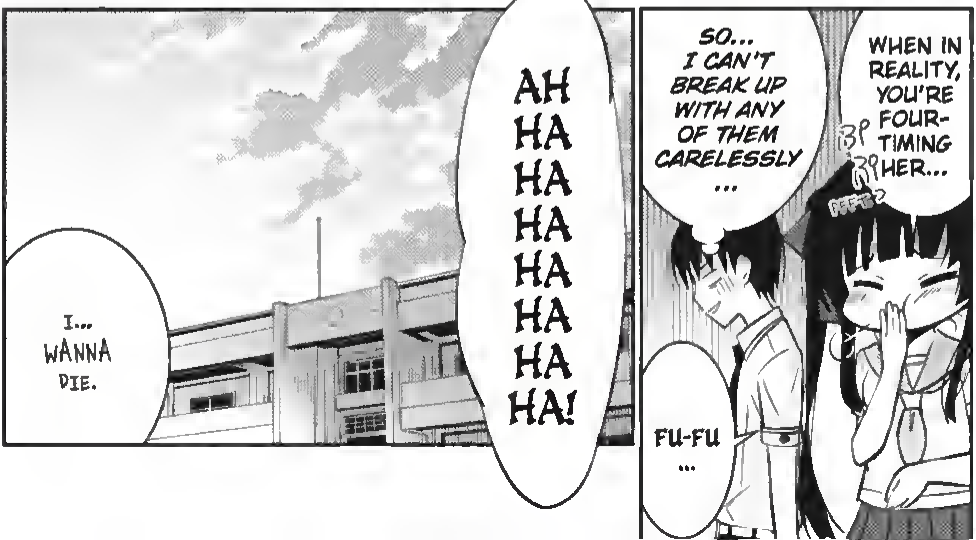
ZOOM

NICE TO PROPERLY MEETCHA!
...WHY INTRODUCE YOURSELF NOW?
YOU LISTENING? JUST SCRAM ALREADY.

I'LL BE STANDING BY FOR THREE MONTHS...
...WAITING FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO BEING A NO-LIFER.
I BET YOU'LL BE EXPOSED AS A FOUR-TIMER SOON ENOUGH. HEH-HEH.
STAND-ING BY...?
THAT MEANS...
FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS...
...I'VE GOTTA KEEP UP ALL FOUR RELATION-SHIPS...?

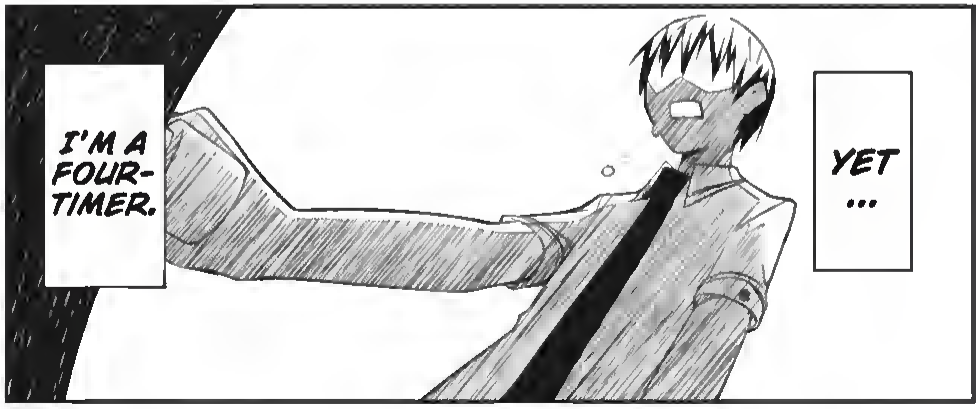
TRUE LOVE IS EVEN FARTHER BEYOND MY REACH...
SWAY
INSTEAD, I'M A DETESTABLE OWNER OF A HAREM .....
... GOT IT!
JUST GOTTA END IT WITH SOME OF THEM...
AH. SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

ANY GIRL YOU BREAK UP WITH IS BOUND TO PUT THE WORD OUT.
RUMORS WILL START TO SPREAD...
...UNTIL THEY REACH THE ONE YOU'RE STILL GOING OUT WITH.
SHE'LL THINK, "HE'S BEEN TWO-TIMING ME," RIGHT?


WHEN IN REALITY, YOU'RE FOUR-TIMING HER...
SO... I CAN'T BREAK UP WITH ANY OF THEM CARELESSLY ...
FU-FU ...
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I... WANNA DIE.

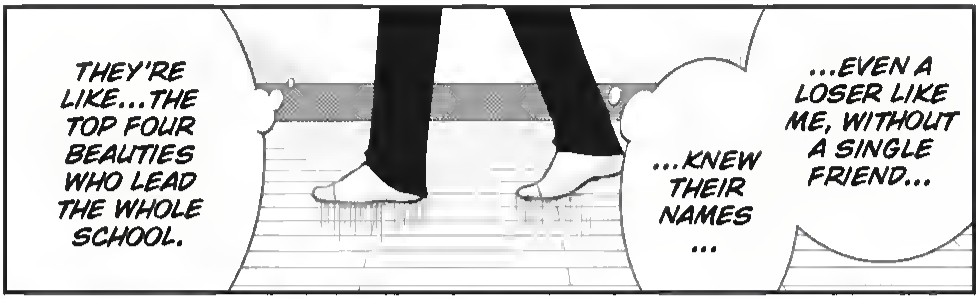
TRUE LOVE'S WHAT I'M REALLY AFTER.
LIKE IN ALL MY CLICHÉD GIRLS' MANGA STORIES...
CREAK
I CAN'T FREAKING BELIEVE IT...
APPEAL 2:
I FOUND MYSELF FOUR GIRLFRIENDS

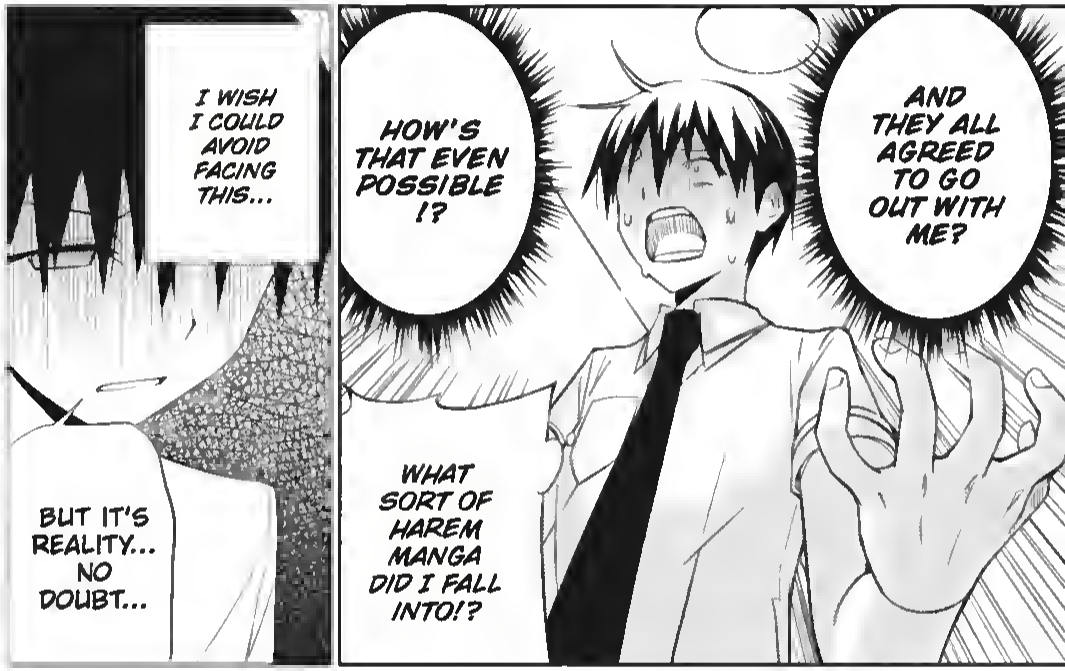
THAT SORT OF LOVE IS BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?
A RELATION-SHIP FILLED WITH UPS AND DOWNS AND TOUGH TIMES...
BUT ONE WHERE THE COUPLE ENDS UP FINDING HAPPINESS...

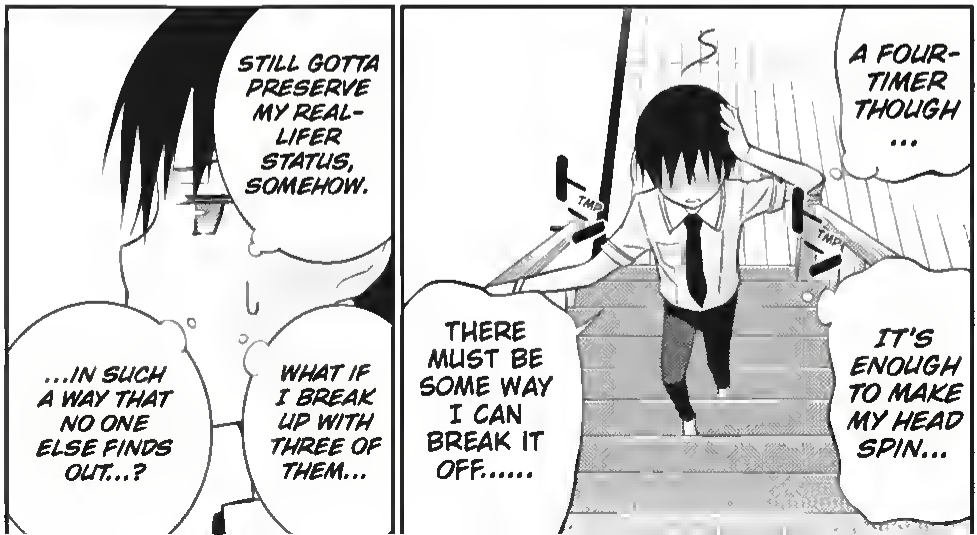

I'M A FOUR-TIMER.
YET ...

I'M PREPARED TO BEGIN A RELATION-SHIP.....
RISA UMIKAI (MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR)
MY CLASS'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL. CALM, COLLECTED, AND TRUSTED BY GIRLS AND BOYS ALIKE.
WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER GOING FORWARD.
YUI KOBAYA-KAWA (MIDDLE SCHOOL THIRD-YEAR)
THE NEWEST AND HOTTEST POP IDOL. BY FAR THE MOST POPULAR AND WELL-KNOWN GIRL AMONG THE BOYS AT SCHOOL.

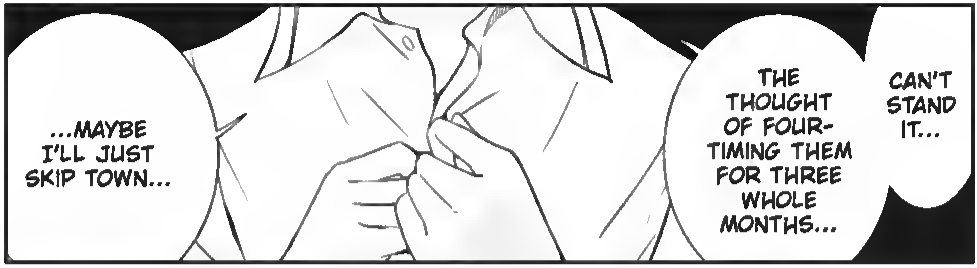
IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT, I'D BE THRILLED ...!
AOI SAWATARI (MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR)
THE SPORTY ACE OF THE SWIMMING CLUB. POPULAR WITH EVERYONE THANKS TO HER CHEERY PERSONALITY.
SURE, I GUESS I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU...!!
EMIRI OOGAWARA (MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR)
THE STEREOTYPICAL RICH AND SPOILED GIRL. MANY A BOY HAS FALLEN FOR HER LOVELY LOOKS.


THEY'RE LIKE...THE TOP FOUR BEAUTIES WHO LEAD THE WHOLE SCHOOL.
...KNEW THEIR NAMES ...
...EVEN A LOSER LIKE ME, WITHOUT A SINGLE FRIEND...


I WISH I COULD AVOID FACING THIS...
BUT IT'S REALITY... NO DOUBT...
HOW'S THAT EVEN POSSIBLE!?
WHAT SORT OF HAREM MANGA DID I FALL INTO!?
AND THEY ALL AGREED TO GO OUT WITH ME?


STILL GOTTA PRESERVE MY REAL-LIFER STATUS, SOMEHOW.
...IN SUCH A WAY THAT NO ONE ELSE FINDS OUT...?
WHAT IF I BREAK UP WITH THREE OF THEM...
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN BREAK IT OFF.....
A FOUR-TIMER THOUGH ...
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HEAD SPIN...

NAH. PEOPLE WOULD START TO BAD-MOUTH ME.
AND I'D BE EXPOSED AS A FOUR-TIMER, PROBABLY...
カチャ...
CLICK
I HEARD.
HE'S REALLY THE WORST.
OH? REALLY?
I COULD BE A JERK TO MAKE THEM HATE ME?
ENOUGH SO THAT THEY'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO EVEN MENTION THAT WE WENT OUT AT ALL .....
あああ
AHHHHH!
OH? MINAGUCHI?
PRETTY SURE HE WAS CHEATING ON ME.
I COULD TRY SETTING THEM UP WITH OTHER GUYS...
YOUR LAST BOYFRIEND. WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
I COULD CONFESS... THAT A GRIM REAPER'S THREATENING ME.
BUT THEN THEY'D JUST THINK I WAS INSANE.
THUMP
NOPE... BREAKING UP WITH ANY OF THEM IS TOO RISKY...


CAN'T STAND IT...
THE THOUGHT OF FOUR-TIMING THEM FOR THREE WHOLE MONTHS...
...MAYBE I'LL JUST SKIP TOWN...

SLIDE
SHE MIGHT BE WATCHING ME SOMEHOW THOUGH...

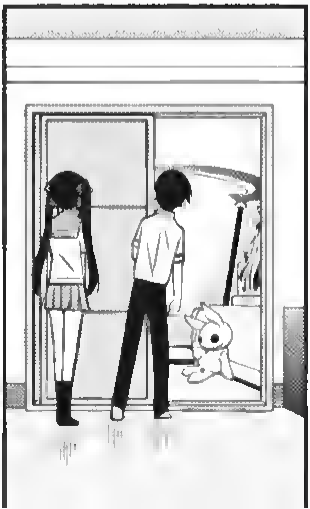
KYAHHHH!
Ah.
Nice reaction.

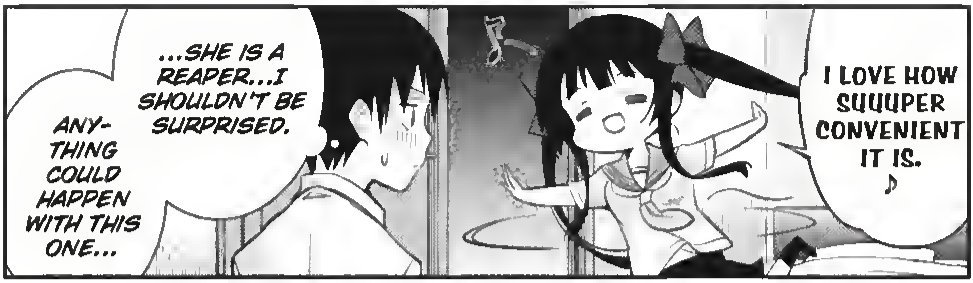
YOU WERE WATCHING ME FROM THE CLOSET?
EXCEPT YOU'RE THE GIRL HERE!!
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
JUST LIKE IN A MANGA WHERE THE COUPLE LIVES TOGETHER.

HUH?

THANKS FOR THE ACCOMMO-DATIONS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH? WHAT ACCOMMO-DATIONS ...?

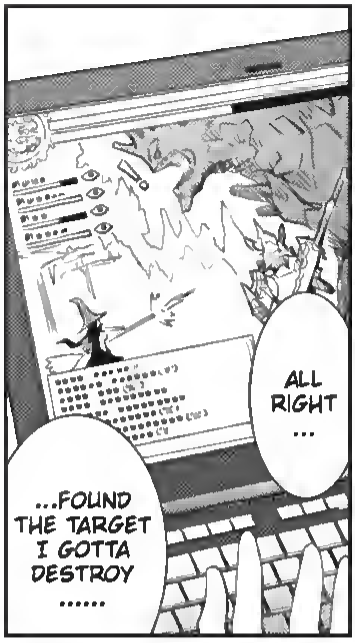
IT'S MY ROOM BACK IN REAPER WORLD.
I CONNECTED IT TO YOUR CLOSET.
...SINCE WHEN DID A WHOLE ROOM EXIST INSIDE MY CLOSET.....?




I LOVE HOW SUUUPER CONVENIENT IT IS. ♪
...SHE IS A REAPER...I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
ANY-THING COULD HAPPEN WITH THIS ONE...

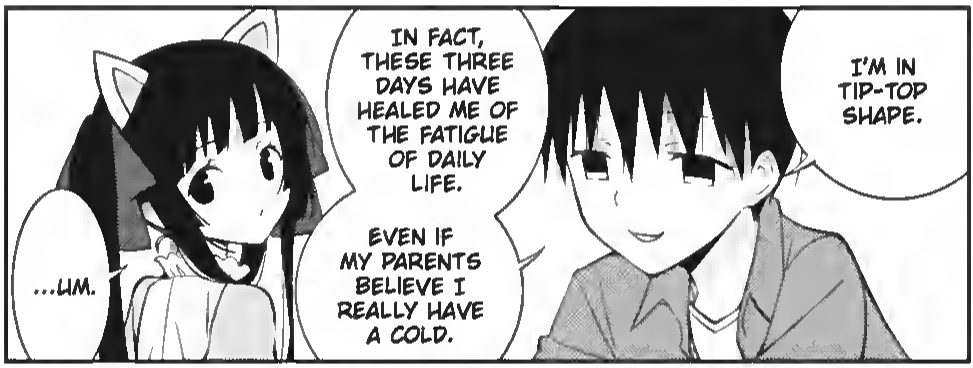
NOW THAT IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO MONITOR YOU... ♡
...THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN TRYING TO SKIP TOWN.
...YUP. SHE OVER-HEARD ME.
NO CHANCE OF SLIPPING PAST HER RADAR NOW .....
CLOSE

WELL ...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS REALLY PLANNING ON LEAVING IN THE FIRST PLACE...
CLICK
CLICK



BAG: POTATO CHIPS

YOU'VE BEEN HOME FROM SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS.
IF YOU'RE SICK, PLEASE VISIT THE HOSPITAL.
THUMP
I CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING BEFORE I GET A CHANCE TO REAP YOU!
...I WON'T.

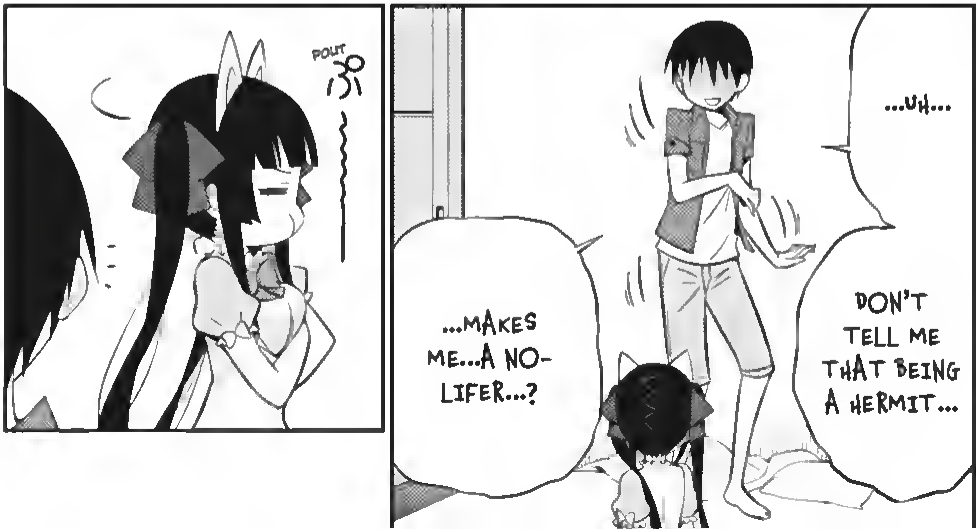

I'M IN TIP-TOP SHAPE.
IN FACT, THESE THREE DAYS HAVE HEALED ME OF THE FATIGUE OF DAILY LIFE.
EVEN IF MY PARENTS BELIEVE I REALLY HAVE A COLD.
...UM.

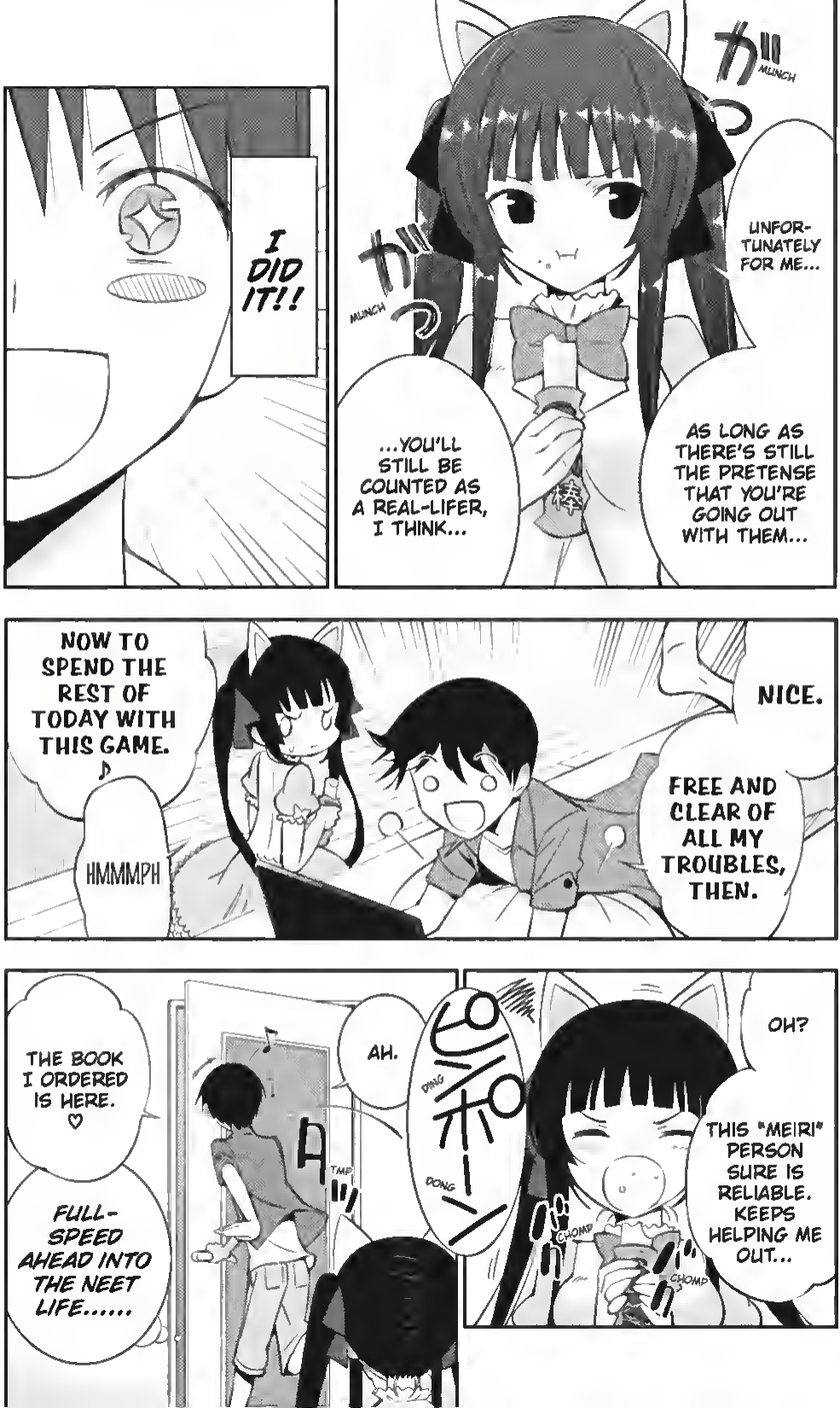
SNACK: YUMMY STICK
I'M NOT SURE I GET IT.
HEALTHY YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT A RULE HERE IN YOUR WORLD?
I'M GONNA BE...
...KING OF THE NEETs!

I...REALIZED SOMETHING...
RISE
SO YOU'RE DECLARING THAT YOU'RE A FAILURE?
RIP
BEING A FOUR-TIMER...
...IS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE!!!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT LOGICALLY!
YOU FINALLY GET IT?
ESPECIALLY WITH FOUR GIRLS AT THE SAME SCHOOL!!
IF JUST ONE OF THEM GETS TO TALKING ABOUT IT...
...THERE'S A DEADLY HIGH CHANCE THE OTHERS'LL FIND OUT!!
NO WAY NO WAY NO WAY
SO...
IN THAT CASE...

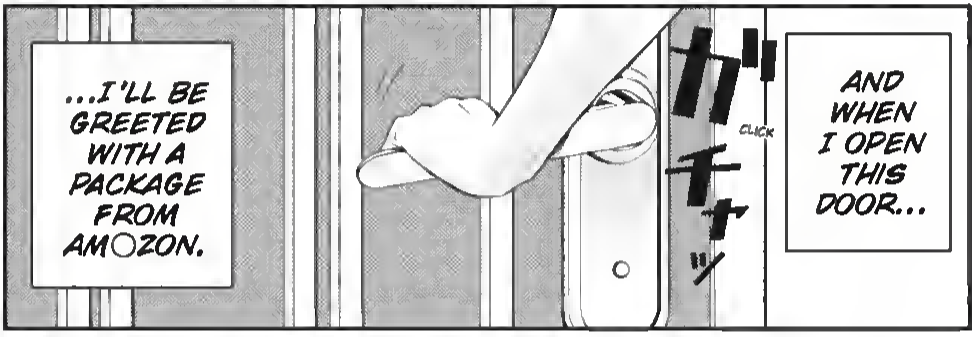
THERE'S NO POINT IN WAITING AROUND TO TAKE MY SOUL!!
DON'T YOU GET IT!?
TOO BAD FOR YOU!
HA HA HA
I JUST WON'T SEE ANY OF THEM.
I'LL BE A HERMIT HERE IN MY SANCTUARY ...
...AND RIDE OUT THESE THREE MONTHS!!

.....HMM?


POUT
...UH...
DON'T TELL ME THAT BEING A HERMIT...
...MAKES ME...A NO-LIFER...?


I DID IT!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME...
AS LONG AS THERE'S STILL THE PRETENSE THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THEM...
...YOU'LL STILL BE COUNTED AS A REAL-LIFER, I THINK...
NOW TO SPEND THE REST OF TODAY WITH THIS GAME. ♪
HMMMPH
NICE.
FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL MY TROUBLES, THEN.
THE BOOK I ORDERED IS HERE. ♡
FULL-SPEED AHEAD INTO THE NEET LIFE.....
TMP
AH.
PINPON
DING
DONG
OH?
THIS "MEIRI" PERSON SURE IS RELIABLE. KEEPS HELPING ME OUT...
CHOMP
CHOMP

GET TO STAY HOME AND PLAY GAMES ALL DAY.
DON'T GOTTA STUDY.
SKIP てっ
SKIP てっ
IT'S NOTHING BUT FUN FROM NOW ON. ♡
U FU FU FU FU. ♡


...I'LL BE GREETED WITH A PACKAGE FROM AM○ZON.
ガチャ CLICK
AND WHEN I OPEN THIS DOOR...

I'VE FOUND PARA-DISE. ♡

DUN
DUN
RISA UMIKAI
DUN
STUDENT COUNCIL REP

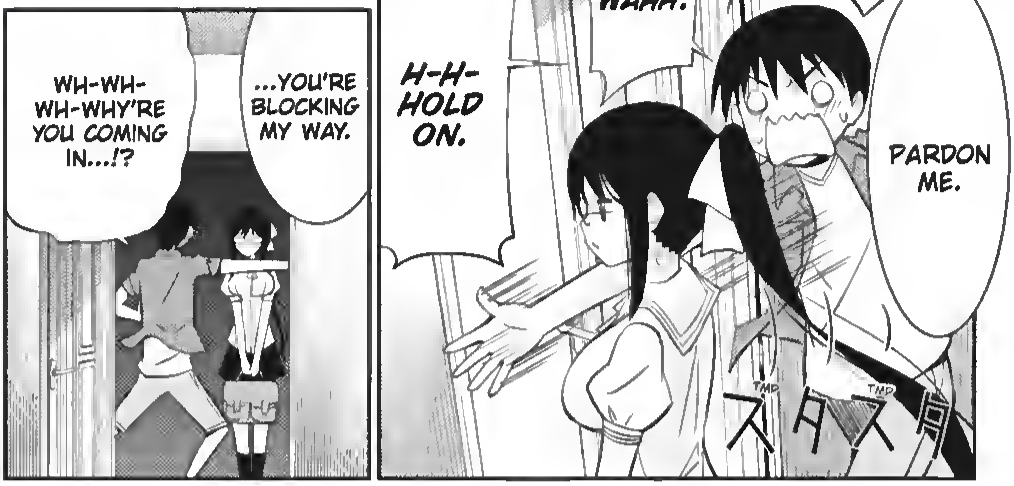
EEEEEEK!
...YOU LOOK PALE. MAKES SENSE...
UMIKAI-SAN...
WHY'S SHE AT MY HOUSE ...!?
HEEGYAHH!
AH... RIGHT.
I STARTED TO WONDER IF YOU WERE OKAY.
YOU'VE BEEN ABSENT FOR THREE DAYS NOW.

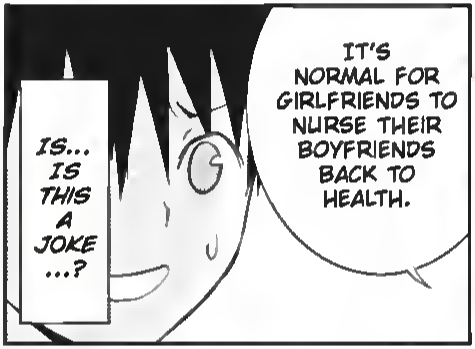
I HEARD IT'S A COLD...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT SHE'D WORRY AND COME VISIT HER AILING BOYFRIEND...
SOMEHOW OR OTHER, SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND.

...GLAD TO HEAR IT.
I'M GETTING BETTER ALREADY, FOR SURE...
AH... YEAH, I'M OKAY.

...SHE CAME TO MAKE A FORMAL INTRODUCTION ...?
I HAD HOPED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF PROPERLY.
WHAT A SHAME ...

NAH, THEY'RE AT WORK... BUT...
HUH?
...ARE YOUR PARENTS HOME AT THE MOMENT?


WH-WH-WH-WHY'RE YOU COMING IN...!?
...YOU'RE BLOCKING MY WAY.
H-H-HOLD ON.
WAHH.
PARDON ME.
スタスタ


IS... IS THIS A JOKE ...?
IT'S NORMAL FOR GIRLFRIENDS TO NURSE THEIR BOYFRIENDS BACK TO HEALTH.

"WHY," YOU ASK ...?
YOU HAVE NO ONE TO NURSE YOU, RIGHT?
AND I AM YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AFTER ALL...

WE'LL BE ALONE, FOR ONE...
AND WHAT IF ANOTHER ONE OF THEM SHOWS UP IN THE MEANTIME? CAN'T TALK MY WAY OUT OF THAT...!!

...WE CAN'T HAVE YOU CATCHING MY COLD.
I-I'M REALLY GRATEFUL, UMIKAI-SAN, BUT...
I'VE GOTTA SEND HER AWAY AT ALL COSTS...!!

SO I BROUGHT THIS MASK TO WEAR.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

WELL, I'D END UP FALLING ILL WITH GRIEF.....
IF YOU DID HAPPEN TO...
... MINA-GUCHI-KUN...

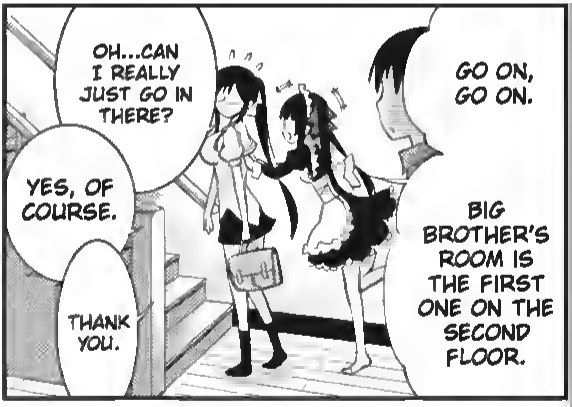
PARDON ME.
NOW, ONCE AGAIN ...
... COME ON IN ...

...OF COURSE... THAT'S OUR COUNCIL REP FOR YA...
ALWAYS THINKING TWO STEPS AHEAD...
IT BLOCKS 99% OF ALL VIRUSES.
IT'S NOT COMPLETELY GUARANTEED, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY PREFERABLE TO NOTHING.

AHH.
I JUST GOTTA GET HER TO LEAVE ASAP...
パタン
CLOSE
SHE'S IN. NO HELPING IT, NOW...
PFFFT!
WELCOME! ♡
A FRIEND OF BIG BROTHER'S?

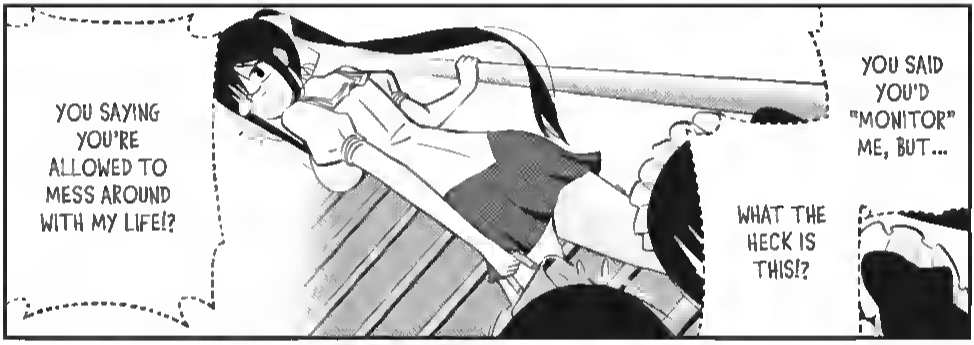
DAMN... FORGOT ABOUT HER.....!!
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS SETUP!
I'M CARING FOR MY BIG BROTHER.
YES.
YOU ARE... MINAGUCHI-KUN'S SISTER?

SHE'LL REVEAL ME AS A FOUR-TIMER...!!
WHAT TO DO ...?
JUST A SOUVENIR FROM AKIBA.
I WAS THERE EARLIER TODAY! ♡
DO YOU... ALWAYS WEAR THAT OUTFIT?


OH...CAN I REALLY JUST GO IN THERE?
YES, OF COURSE.
THANK YOU.
GO ON, GO ON.
BIG BROTHER'S ROOM IS THE FIRST ONE ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

...YOUR SISTER SEEMS FUN.
OH... HUH...
S-SURE ...

WAH.
TOO CLOSE.
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

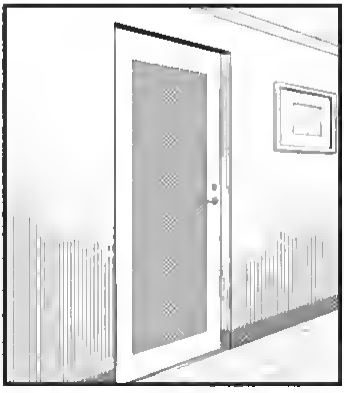

YOU SAYING YOU'RE ALLOWED TO MESS AROUND WITH MY LIFE!?
YOU SAID YOU'D "MONITOR" ME, BUT...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS!?

...I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
I KNOW YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO EXPOSE ME AS A FOUR-TIMER, BUT...
...IF THAT'S YOUR SCHEME, I'VE GOT A TRICK OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE...
YES, I WOULD LOVE TO EXPOSE YOU, BUT...

...THAT EXTEND TO ANYONE BEYOND OUR INTENDED TARGET.
?
SHHH.
IT'S FORBIDDEN BY OUR LAWS...
...TO SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD DIRECTLY DISRUPT ANY HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...

...CAN'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD DIRECTLY EXPOSE ME...
... THIS GIRL ...
GWAHH
WHICH MEANS... I CAN BREATHE EASY FOR NOW... MAYBE.

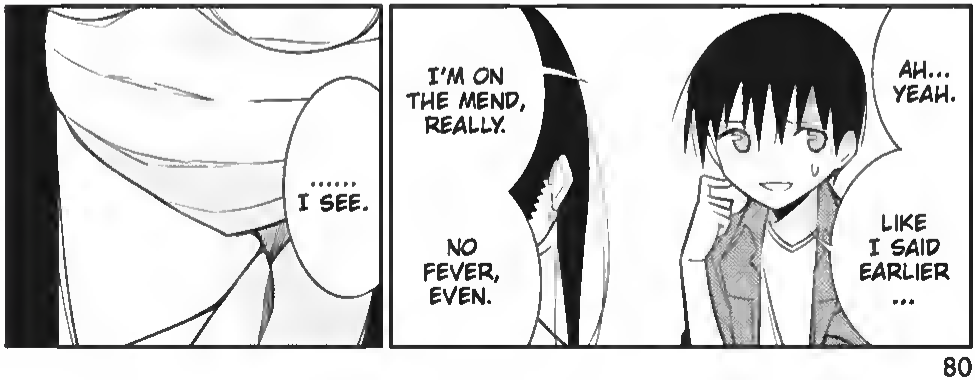
AHHH. JUST THINKING ABOUT IT'S SCARY...
BREAK THAT RULE, AND I'D HAVE MY VOCAL CORDS CRUSHED...
... SO ...



TRYING TO BE ALL CUTESY.. "BIG BROTHER!" ♡
THIS WHOLE SISTER BACKSTORY THOUGH.
WHAT A PAIN!

THIS IS SUPER WEIRD...
UWAHH ...
A GIRL FROM CLASS ...
...IS REALLY IN MY ROOM.

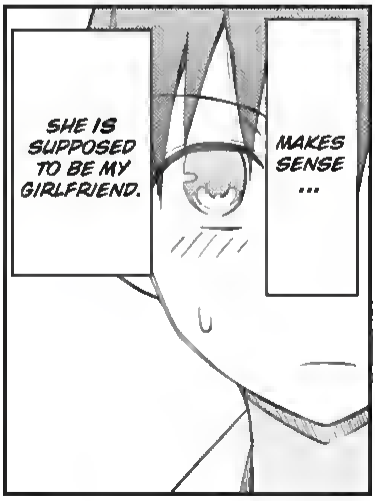
SENSEI SAID YOU HAD A COLD.
WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULDN'T BE SLEEPING?


..... I SEE.
I'M ON THE MEND, REALLY.
NO FEVER, EVEN.
AH... YEAH.
LIKE I SAID EARLIER ...

...THANK GOOD-NESS.

SHE... WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME...
AH ...

SHE'S COOL, AN ACE STUDENT, AND EVERYONE TRUSTS HER.
A PERFECT BEAUTY, LOVED AND RESPECTED BY ALL.
UMIKAI-SAN...
HER BEAUTY SHINES THROUGH, EVEN WITH THAT MASK...


SHE IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY GIRLFRIEND.
MAKES SENSE ...

...HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ME!?
WHY WOULD THIS GIRL...
ME, WHO GETS CALLED A PANSY AND GETS PICKED ON!?

...THEY ALL AGREED TO MY ASKING THEM OUT!!
RIGHT... THE OTHER THREE TOO.
NEVER SPOKE TWO WORDS TO ANY OF THEM, YET...

I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHY THEY AGREED TO THIS...
AND THIS IS ALL ONE BIG HIDDEN CAMERA PRANK!?
WHAT IF THEY'RE IN CAHOOTS?

NO, WAIT... WE MIGHT BREAK UP, DEPENDING ON THE ANSWER.
THEN MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE AGAIN.
BUT I'VE GOTTA WONDER WHY...
MINA-GUCHI-KUN.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
OH... AH.
WHAT IS IT?

MINA-GUCHI-KUN...
...HOW DO YOU FULFILL YOUR SEXUAL NEEDS?

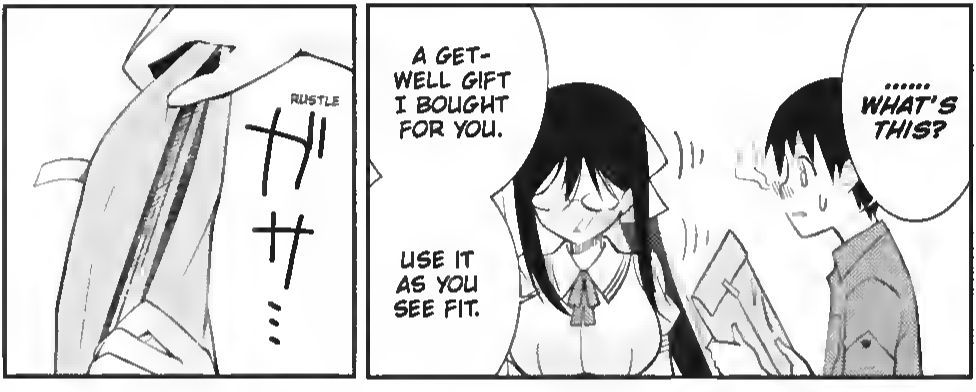
...UH...
UMM...
...RIGHT.
DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT. THE MASK MADE IT HARD TO HEAR.
ONE MORE TIME ...?
I ASKED HOW YOU FULFILL YOUR SEXUAL NEEDS.
TUG

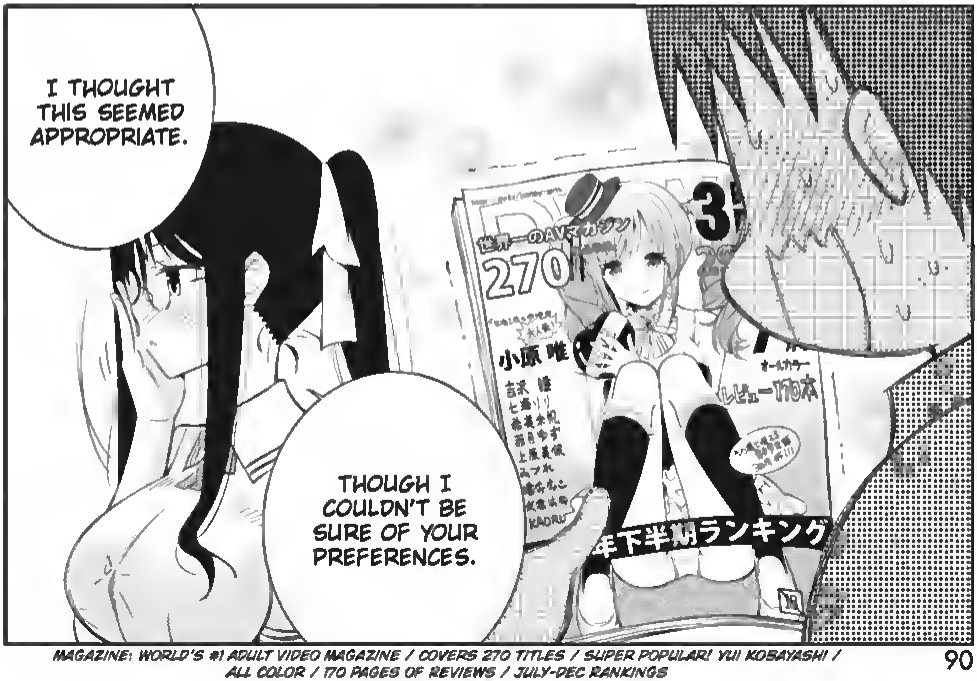
UMIKAI-SAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR SERIOUS, DIGNIFIED, UPSTANDING STUDENT COUNCIL REP!!
UH... WHAT THE HELL!?
SHIFT
HEY.
SHE'D NEVER ASK A QUESTION LIKE TH—
OR MAYBE ON YOUR COMPUTER...
ON YOUR CELL PHONE, THEN ...?
I, UH...
...NO.....
CL- CLOSE ...
YOUR ROOM IS SO CLEAN AND ORDERLY.
I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU HIDING THAT SORT OF THING HERE...

MAY I TAKE A LOOK?
H-HOLD ON!!
...YOUR LAPTOP.
THAT'S WHERE YOU KEEP IT, MINAGUCHI-KUN.
EH!?
THERE'S NOTHING!!
NOTHING WEIRD ON THERE YOU NEED TO SEE!!
...IN THAT CASE...
YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE A PEEK?
NOOOOOOO!!
JUST DON'T, PLEASE!!
THIS IS A VIOLATION OF MY PRIVACY...
TUG

THUMP
SORRY .....
WHAT THE?
SMELLS SO GOOD
LIKE A ROMANTIC COMEDY...
ふわ
WAFT
AH...
...MINA-GUCHI-KUN...

I COULD.....
WHA.....
SHIFT
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, MINAGUCHI-KUN...
I.....





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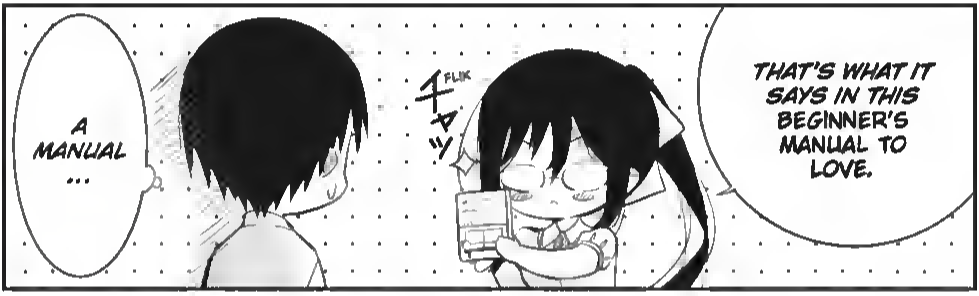
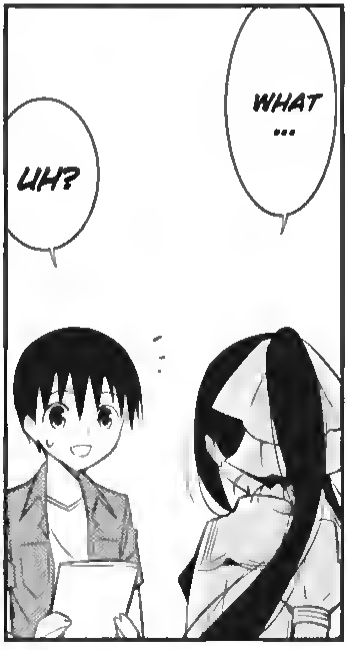
IN ORDER TO ENSURE OUR RELATIONSHIP LASTS FOR A GOOD WHILE.
MAKING SURE YOUR PARTNER'S SEXUAL NEEDS ARE FULFILLED IS ESSENTIAL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

YES.
...THIS IS... YOU BOUGHT THIS FOR ME, UMIKAI-SAN.....?

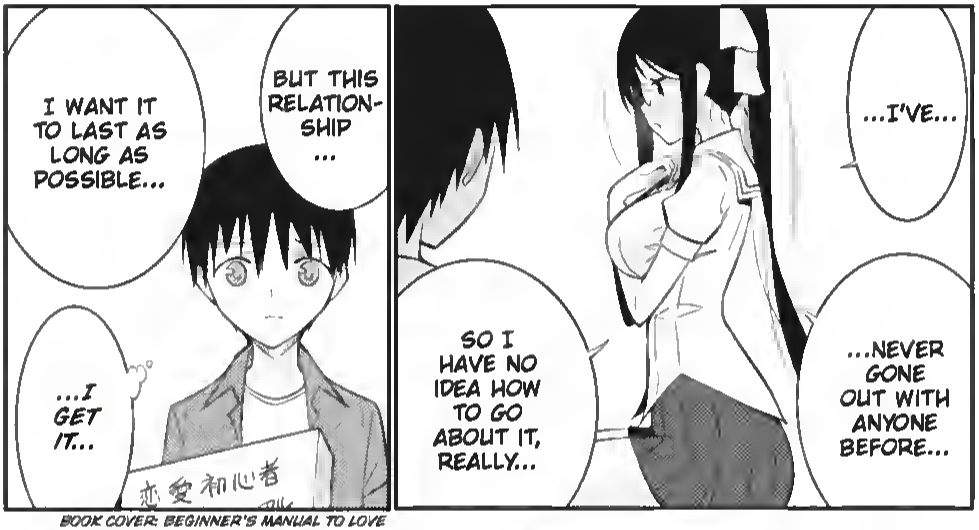

A MANUAL ...
FLIK
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN THIS BEGINNER'S MANUAL TO LOVE.

DO YOU PREFER GIRLS LIKE THE ONE ON THE COVER...?
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING FOR?
NO... NOT AT ALL!


WHAT ...
UH?

YOU'RE AS DILIGENT AS EVER, UMIKAI-SAN.
IT'S JUST... YOU EVEN WENT AND STUDIED UP ON HOW TO LOVE.

I JUST THINK IT'S CUTE.
かぁぁぁぁ
BLUSH
HMM?
.....
.....
.....


I WANT IT TO LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...
BUT THIS RELATION-SHIP ...
...I GET IT...
恋愛初心者
...I'VE...
SO I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO GO ABOUT IT, REALLY...
...NEVER GONE OUT WITH ANYONE BEFORE...

BOOK COVER: BEGINNER'S MANUAL TO LOVE

THINKING ABOUT IT AGAIN, THAT WAY...
I'M BOYFRIEND TO EACH OF THEM NOW.
THE OTHER GIRLS TOO.

EVEN IF IT IS JUST TO SURVIVE...
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
...I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ROB THESE GIRLS...
...OF EVEN A SINGLE PAGE IN THIS CHAPTER OF YOUTH!!

I FEEL GUILTY AS HELL!!
HAA.
HAA.
THOUGH IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT!

...ARE YOU OKAY?

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST ADMIT EVERYTHING AND BE FREE OF THIS...
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
UGH... BUT THE THOUGHT OF DYING...
I'M SORRY.

YOU'VE GONE PALE AGAIN.
IS YOUR COLD HAVING A RESURGENCE ...?
WAVE
NAH... I'M FINE.
SHE'S SO CARING.
REALLY ?
THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL.
SHE OUGHTA HAVE A BETTER BOYFRIEND THAN SOMEONE LIKE ME.
... SORRY ABOUT THAT.
DON'T MENTION IT.
WE'RE A COUPLE, AFTER ALL.
...I'VE AT LEAST GOTTA ATONE SOMEHOW.
HEY, UMIKAI-SAN.
CAN I BORROW THAT MANUAL FROM YOU?

...THIS IS ALL I CAN THINK OF RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S NOT WHY I WANNA BORROW IT.
...YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING EROTIC IN HERE, RIGHT?

...AND TRYING TO FEEL SELF-SATISFIED.
IT'S REALLY JUST ME BEING SELFISH ...
...AND STUDY UP.
I'M GONNA READ THIS TOO...

I CAN AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE HER HAPPY WHILE WE'RE TOGETHER.
...BUT I CAN AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE A GOOD BOYFRIEND.
SO THAT WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.

EVEN IF IT MEANS I'LL BE HATED...
I'LL ADMIT EVERYTHING TO THEM...
AND ONCE THE THREE MONTHS IS UP...

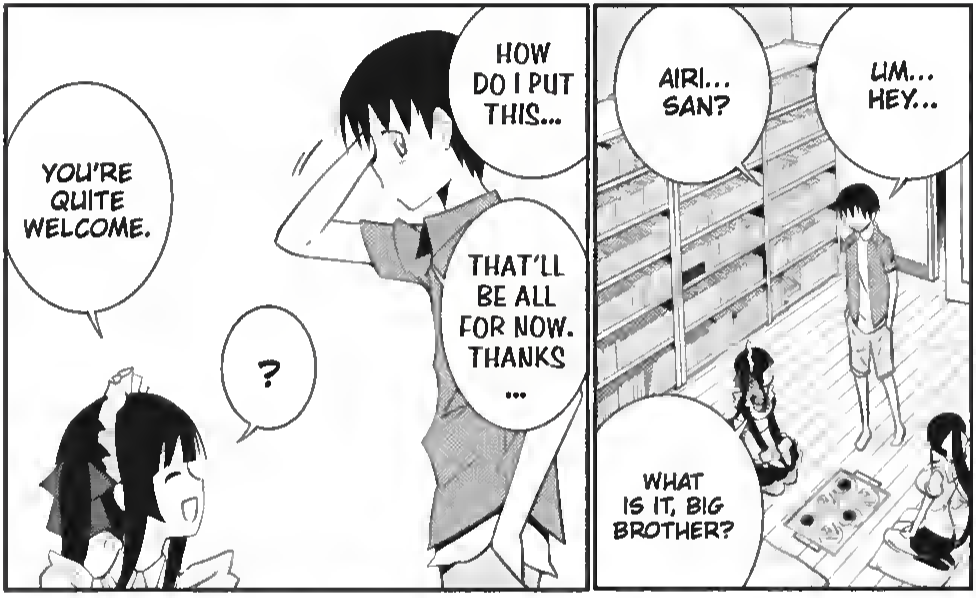
NAH .....
THAT, WELL, SORRY... I DON'T NEED IT.
THIS TOO...?
3 DVD
7

KNOCK
KNOCK
BIG BROTHER.

THAT'S NOT IT. REALLY...
I SEE... YOU'RE A SHY ONE, MINAGUCHI-KUN.
BESIDES, MY PARENTS MIGHT STUMBLE ACROSS A PHYSICAL MAGAZINE.

OPEN UP, PLEASE.
YOUR CUTE LITTLE SISTER IS HERE! ♡
OH.
... ANNOYING ...
I HAVE TEA...
...AND HOMEMADE CAKE.
PLEASE ENJOY THEM, YOU TWO.
AH... THANK YOU.
RIGHT... I'M A FREAKING IDIOT!!
MY "GIRLFRIEND" CAME OVER AND I DIDN'T HAVE THE DECENCY TO EVEN SERVE TEA...
THAT'S HOW HIGH-STRUNG I AM AT THIS POINT.....!

YOUR SISTER SURE IS THOUGHT-FUL.
AH... YEAH...
THOUGHT-FUL. YEAH RIGHT...


UM... HEY...
AIRI... SAN?
WHAT IS IT, BIG BROTHER?
HOW DO I PUT THIS...
THAT'LL BE ALL FOR NOW. THANKS ...
?
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.

UGH ...
NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND MYSELF THANKING...
...SOMEONE WHO'S AFTER MY VERY LIFE...

AH...
YUI KOBAYAKAWA (IDOL)

AH!
I FORGOT TO MENTION.

THIS ONE WAS LOITERING IN THE ENTRYWAY.
I INQUIRED, AND SHE CLAIMED TO BE A FRIEND OF YOURS, BIG BROTHER.
SO I LET HER IN.
...HOW THOUGHT-FUL
AHHHHHH!
THOUGHT-FUL...
...INDEED...

COME IN, COME IN.
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK. ♡
WAHH!
I GET YOUR GAME, REAPER ...

UM...
CAN I COME IN...?

YOU'LL JUST DO EVERYTHING ELSE TO SCREW THIS UP FOR ME!!
YOU CAN'T INTERFERE VERBALLY, SO...

...THAT TODAY'S THE DAY I DIE.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE ...

... AND NOW ...

IT ALL STARTED ...
...WITH THAT DAMN GRIM REAPER, WHO POPPED UP OUT OF NOWHERE.
YOU'RE A NO-LIFER. SO I GET TO KILL YOU.
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME.

APPEAL 3: PICK OF THE LITTER

IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO BECOME A REAL-LIFER...
...I ACTUALLY DELIVERED LOVE LETTERS TO FOUR DIFFERENT GIRLS!
TOMOR-ROW...
I'LL BECOME A REAL-LIFER.
AND WHAT A BUNCH OF CRAP THAT WAS!

BUT THEN...
...WHO COULD'VE GUESSED ALL FOUR WOULD SAY YES!!?
WHEN WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TRUE LOVE...!!
THEN THE REAPER SAYS SHE'S CRASHING HERE FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.
SO IF I WANNA HANG ON TO MY REAL-LIFER STATUS...
...I'VE GOTTA KEEP BEING A DIRTY FOUR-TIMER!!
...AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT...

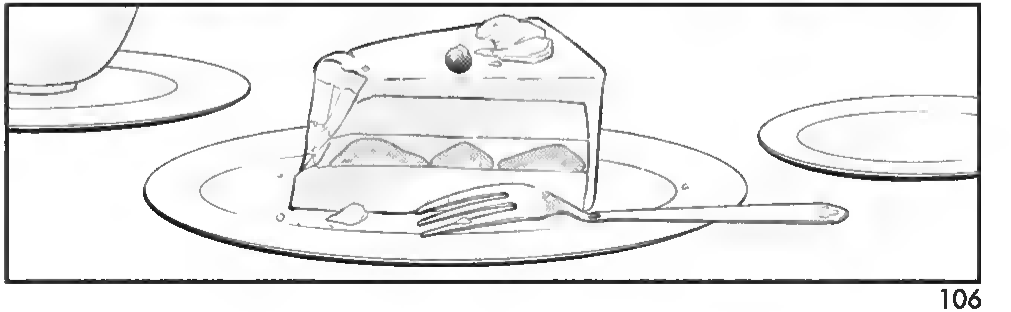
...TWO OF THEM ARE IN THE SAME ROOM NOW.
THIS IS MY REALITY ...

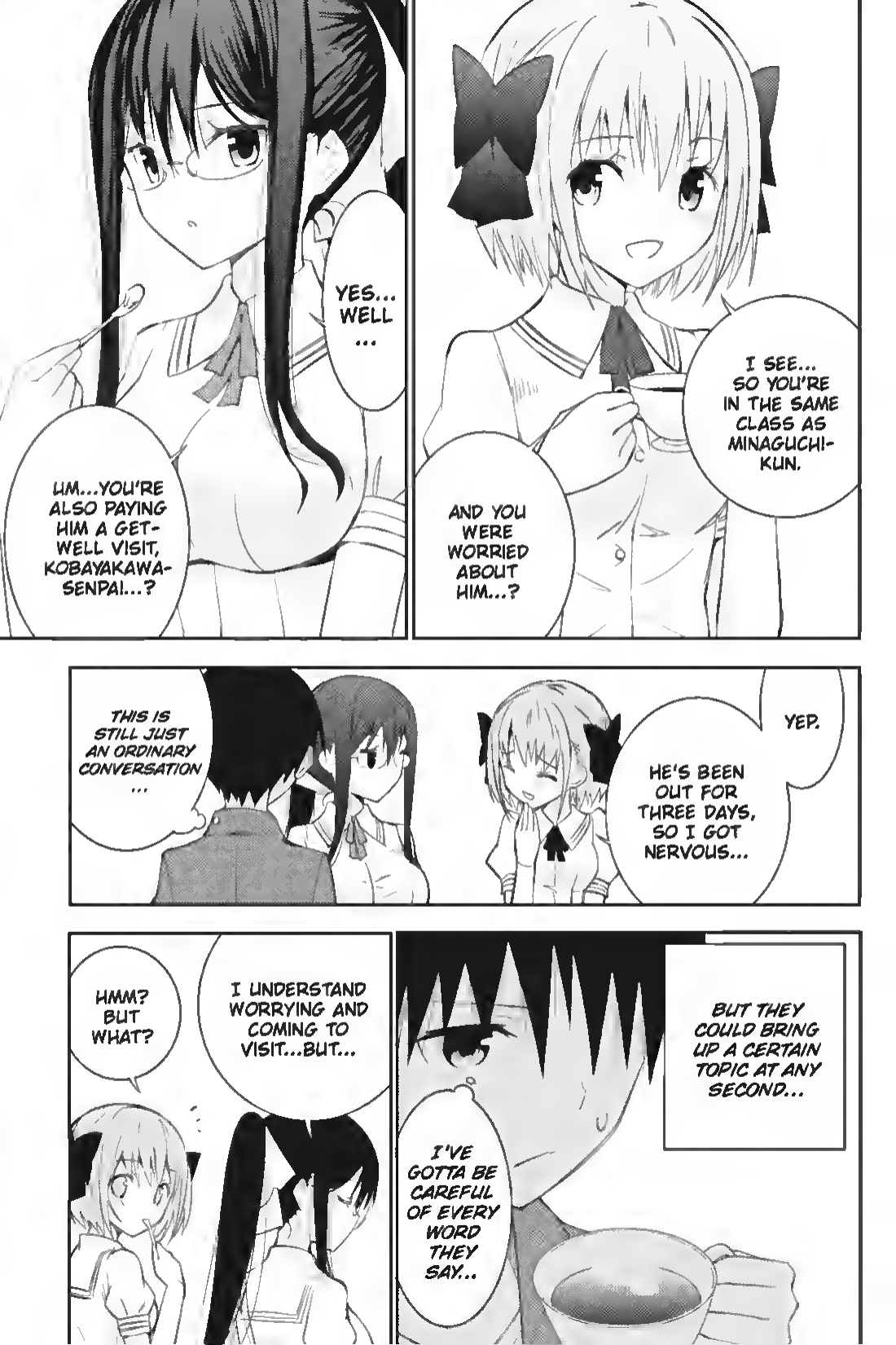
I'M DRIVEN INTO A CORNER, HERE...
WELL NOW.
THIS IS WHERE I TAKE MY LEAVE.

AH... THANKS.
THANK YOU.
PLEASE RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.
CLOSE
CLICK

CLOSE
THAT DAMN REAPER...
DON'T THINK THIS'LL GO HOW YOU WANT IT TO.
CLICK
SERIOUSLY. TAKE YOUR TIME!
ENJOYING MY DESPER-ATION, IS SHE!?

I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN EXPOSED AS A FOUR-TIMER YET...
...I'VE JUST GOTTA HANDLE THIS SMOOTHLY!!




UM...YOU'RE ALSO PAYING HIM A GET-WELL VISIT, KOBAYAKAWA-SENPAI...?
YES... WELL ...
AND YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...?
I SEE... SO YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS MINAGUCHI-KUN.
THIS IS STILL JUST AN ORDINARY CONVERSATION ...
YEP. HE'S BEEN OUT FOR THREE DAYS, SO I GOT NERVOUS...
HMM? BUT WHAT?
I UNDERSTAND WORRYING AND COMING TO VISIT...BUT...
I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL OF EVERY WORD THEY SAY...
BUT THEY COULD BRING UP A CERTAIN TOPIC AT ANY SECOND...

MINAGUCHI-KUN ISN'T POPULAR BY ANY MEANS.
SPLURT

I FIND IT ODD... THAT HE WOULD SOMEHOW KNOW YOU. AN OLDER WOMAN, AND A PERFORMER ON TOP OF THAT...
GIVEN THAT HE HAS NO FRIENDS IN OUR GRADE...

AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND.
EVEN IN CLASS, HE'S TOTALLY ISOLATED. THE OTHERS TREAT HIM LIKE EMPTY SPACE.
IS...IS THAT SO?
MY PITIFUL EXISTENCE, REVEALED ...

THIS IS BAD...! SHE'S GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER...!
AH...THAT'S 'COS I WAS A FAN OF HERS FROM THE START.

WE'RE GOING OUT.
YES.

MY LIFE'S OVER...
JUST LIKE THAT .....

AHHH .....

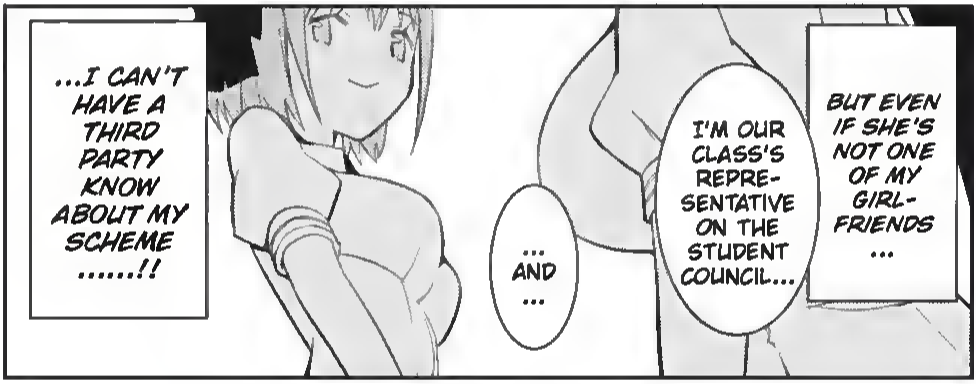
JUST KIDDING!
.....
HUH?

IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
TO ANYONE ELSE, IT MUST SEEM LIKE WE'D HAVE NO REASON TO GET ALONG.
YES...I SUPPOSE.

MINAGUCHI-KUN IS JUST A FRIEND.
THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME WHEN HE SAVED ME FROM A CRAZED FAN.
WE'VE GOTTEN TOGETHER AND TALKED A LOT SINCE THEN...
HUH... WHAT'S GOING ON .....?
JUST A FRIEND ...?

SMILE
... COULD IT BE ...?
WHEN SHE AGREED TO GO OUT WITH ME...
...SHE WAS JUST TEASING ME!?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN !!
I KNEW IT WAS WEIRD FOR A POP IDOL TO WANNA GO OUT WITH ME!
..... WAIT.
I SHOULD BE THRILLED ABOUT THIS, I GUESS...

I'M SOMEHOW DOWN TO JUST THREE WITHOUT A BIG UPSET...
AND... UMIKAI-SAN... WAS IT?
YES...
ARE YOU ALSO ONE OF MINAGUCHI-KUN'S FRIENDS ...?


BUT EVEN IF SHE'S NOT ONE OF MY GIRL-FRIENDS ...
I'M OUR CLASS'S REPRE-SENTATIVE ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL...
... AND ...
...I CAN'T HAVE A THIRD PARTY KNOW ABOUT MY SCHEME .....!!

...I'M ALSO MINAGUCHI-KUN'S...
CRAP!
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HER FROM TALKING IS...
I'M SORRY, UMIKAI-SAN!

AH!
DRENCHED
ビチャ
BETTER GET YOU DRIED OFF!
AHH.
NO MORE TALKING, FOR NOW.
HUH?
CLINK
MM.
NICE DEFENSE !!

SPLASH
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AH...! I'M SO SORRY.
USE MY HANDKER-CHIEF...
DRIP
AH.
WAHH ...
AH.
PLEASE, USE THIS TO DRY OFF.
IT'S CLEAN, I SWEAR.
I MANAGED TO SAVE MYSELF. ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL...
I FEEL BAD FOR YUI-SENPAI, BUT...
NO...SORRY. I'M THE ONE WHO SLIPPED AND...!
NOT A PROBLEM.

THANK YOU.
...AH.
HMM?
SENPAI ...!
FWIP

AIRI-SAAAN!!
AIRI!!
...OH NO...
WHAA— AHH— FINE...
GET HER DRIED OFF, STAT!
TH-THANKS.
CLICK
YEAH!!
I SPILLED TEA ALL OVER SENPAI!!
WHAT IS IT, BIG BROTHER? ♡
HAVE YOU RUN INTO SOME TROUBLE?
THIS SOLVES A FEW PROBLEMS, ANYWAY...
NOW I JUST GOTTA GET UMIKAI-SAN TO KEEP QUIET...
CLOSE

...WAS THAT ON PURPOSE?
IT TRACED AN AWFULLY PERFECT PARABOLA THROUGH THE AIR, CONSIDERING YOU "SLIPPED"...
Y-YOU THINK SO?
WHEN YOU THREW THAT TEACUP...
UH...WAS WHAT ON PURPOSE?
HA HA...
OF COURSE NOT...
ALMOST AS IF YOU WERE AIMING AT ME...
YES...

ARE YOU HIDING...
...THE TRUTH FROM ME...?
MINA-GUCHI-KUN .....
CLENCH
KEEPING THIS ALL A SECRET...
...WAS IMPOSSIBLE AFTER ALL ...
HEY .....

YOU REALLY ARE A PERVERT, AREN'T YOU?
.....HUH?
YES...YOU WERE HOPING TO GET A GLIMPSE AT ME THROUGH A SOAKED TOP...
YOU CAN JUST ADMIT IT.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT NOW.....?
WELL, IN THE END YOU GOT TO SEE SENPAI BUT...
MUTTER
MUTTER
AH.
OR MAYBE YOU DON'T CARE WHO IT IS YOU GET TO PEEP AT!?
DID SEEING SENPAI LIKE THAT GET YOU EXCITED .....!?
N-NOT AT ALL!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOOD WITH JUST ANYONE!

...YEAH...
UM... WELL...
...YOU'D PREFER ME, THEN?
OPEN
ガチャッ
BIG BROTHER.
AH... SHE'S HAPPY...?
IS UMIKAI-SAN SECRETLY INTO PERVY STUFF...?
...HMPH.
SORRY, UMIKAI-SAN.
JUST WAIT HERE A SEC?
YES... I UNDER-STAND.
OF COURSE YOU HAVE.
YOU'RE BASICALLY IN A STRANGER'S HOUSE.
PLEASE HELP ME.
I'VE FORGOTTEN WHERE WE KEEP THE HAIR DRYER.

AH... UMIKAI-SAN.
YES?
... RIGHT ...
BETTER NOT FORGET TO SAY...
ABOUT US BEING A COUPLE...
CAN WE KEEP THAT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE ELSE...?
...WHY WOULD WE?
IT'S JUST, ALAS...
WE'RE... TOTALLY MISMATCHED, UMIKAI-SAN.
IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH ME...
...I'M WORRIED THEY'D THINK LESS OF YOU...
I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THAT AT ALL. THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.
I'D RATHER COME OUT AND TELL PEOPLE, IN FACT.
.....

IF PEOPLE SPOKE ILL OF YOU, AND I WAS THE REASON...
...I COULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!!
I-I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT TO YOURSELF !!
GRAB
...SO JUST HANG ON UNTIL THEN!!
I PROMISE I'LL WORK TO BECOME A BOYFRIEND WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION, UMIKAI-SAN...

IF YOU INSIST, MINA-GUCHI-SAN...
NOD
コク...
OKAY ...

THANK YOU...!
OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
MM-HMM.

YOU'RE TOTALLY LIKE A HAREM MANGA PROTAGONIST ♡
SHADDUP.
I WAS ONLY HALF-LYING...

CLOSE

SORRY, BUT IT'S MY MOM'S HAIR DRYER...
RIGHT. THANKS.

OKAY. I'D BETTER GET BACK TO...
TUG
きゅっ
ARE YOU MAD AT ME FOR EARLIER ...?
UH.
SEEING HER UP CLOSE LIKE THIS... WOW, SHE'S CUTE...
NO WONDER SHE'S AN IDOL.
EARLIER ...?
ABOUT ME HIDING THAT WE'RE GOING OUT...
SORRY... I JUST COULDN'T TELL SOMEONE ELSE...
AH...

SHE'S TAKING SUCH A HUGE RISK JUST TO GO OUT WITH ME...
SO YOU ARE MAD, THEN?
IT'S GREAT I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP HER QUIET ABOUT IT, BUT STILL ...
RIGHT... 'COS SHE'S AN IDOL.
A ROMANCE SCANDAL COULD KILL HER CAREER...
SHE SHOULD BE MAD AT ME...
IT'S FINE... I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, SENPAI.
... THAT'S A RELIEF ...
I'M NOT MAD AT ALL.
YOUR SISTER... SEEMS TO BE KEEPING UMIKAI-SAN OCCUPIED...
?
SO THIS IS OUR CHANCE...
OKAY, I'LL BE BACK...
AH, WAIT.

I WANNA DO SOMETHING A COUPLE WOULD DO .....
OR IS THAT TOO SELFISH OF ME...?
...HUH?

MY (FAKE) SISTER AND UMIKAI-SAN AREN'T HERE.
WE'RE TOTALLY ALONE.
"THIS IS OUR CHANCE."
"SOMETHING A COUPLE WOULD DO."
SOMETHING...
...COUPLES DO TOGETHER.

VOOM
"DRY MY CLOTHES OFF FOR ME, MINAGUCHI-KUN!"
"AH... EVERYTHING EXCEPT THOSE SPOTS, OKAY?"
"HUH?"
VOOM
...IT'S NOT TOO HOT, IS IT?
NO... IT'S OKAY.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THIS?
SHE SAID SHE'LL DRY HER MORE PRIVATE SPOTS ON HER OWN.
HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...
I WAS WAY TOO JUMPY, LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY ON ME...
VOOM

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL...
AM I A PER-VERT!?
I REALLY AM NO DIFFERENT THAN A HAREM MANGA PROTAGONIST!!
MY HEART'S RACING OVER THIS .....?
THIS IS A HUGE DEAL!!!
PRESS

WH-WHAT? YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE THAT.
TIME FOR A PUNISHMENT GAME .....!
I WASN'T OGLING ANYBODY .....
I SAW HOW YOU WERE OGLING ME JUST NOW...!
HUH?

FINE. GOT IT...
.....
ALL IS FORGIVEN IF I GET TO FLICK YOUR FOREHEAD. SO CLOSE YOUR EYES!
HERE WE GO!

THIS IS SO OBVIOUS.
...AND THEN KISS HIM BEFORE HE SEES IT COMING" THING!!!
THE GOOD OLD, "SAY IT'S A PUNISHMENT, MAKE HIM CLOSE HIS EYES...

... WAIT.

I DON'T GET TO ENJOY A KISS, OF ALL THINGS !!!
FLASH
NO GOOD. I'M A LOW-TDOWN FOUR-TIMING BASTARD...
KAWHAM
YOWWWCH...!?
I-I'M ALIVE... GOOD...
THAT FELT LIKE...
... A PISTOL .....
...UH .....
SHE SHOT ME...?

AHHHH……

SO SWEET AND PATHETIC-LOOKING.
YOU'RE ADORABLE! ♡
UMM ...
.....HUH?
WHAT A DARLING EXPRESSION, MINAGUCHI-KUN... ♡
THAT HIT WAS SUPER-NATURALLY STRONG...
N-NAH. NO THANKS.
HEY, HEY.
LEMME DO IT ONE MORE TIME? ♡
...UM...
OKAY!?
HEY...JUST ONE MORE TIME!
COULD SHE BE... A SADIST? MAYBE...
IT'S FIIINE. PLEASE!!

YOU'LL LET ME, RIGHT?
HUFF
HUFF
WE'RE LOVERS, AREN'T WE?
HUFF
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK! ♡
BUT ANOTHER FOREHEAD FLICK? TOO BORING .....
GOT ANYTHING HARD AND SOLID AROUND HERE...?
EEEEEEEK!!?
NOT SURE IF SHE'S SERIOUS ABOUT HURTING ME, BUT...
...I'D BETTER ESCAPE FOR NOW!
CLAMP
WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING !?
GUHH!

FU-FUN...
NO RUNNING FROM ME, NOW. ♡
DOOM
OWW... GEEZ...
U-UMM...
I'M NOT...
...ACTUALLY INTO PAIN...
MINAGUCHI-KUN... YOU DON'T LIKE TO BE HURT...?
HMPH...
...WELL THEN...
TWITCH
ビクッ

HOW ABOUT PLEASURE ...?

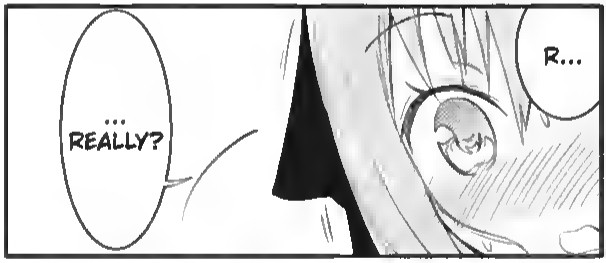
HUH...?
WHAT THE .....?
...SENPAI?
SHE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE...
...DID YOU REALLY MEAN...
...WHAT YOU SAID?

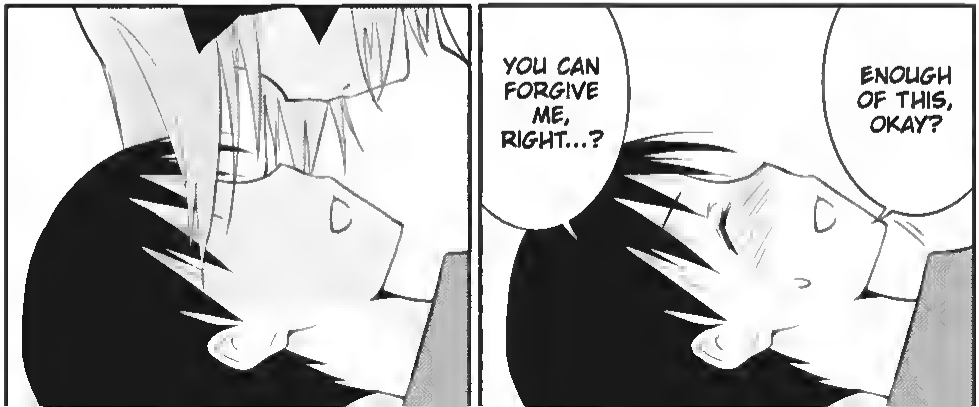
IF I TAKE YOUR HAND, LIKE THIS.....
...WHERE DOES YOUR IMAGINATION START WANDERING?
EROTIC THOUGHTS ...
... PERHAPS?
... WELL ...
SHE LOOKS SO SERIOUS ...
... EARLIER ...
I HAD MYSELF CONVINCED, BUT.....

YOU REALLY WERE LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY, RIGHT?
AM I THAT CHARMING TO YOU?
...I'M .....
...NOT ALL THAT CONFIDENT .....

WELL ...
YEAH, I'M THINKING IT.
ANY GUY WOULD, WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND DOING THIS...

.....
WOULD ANSWERING HONESTLY HERE...
...BE THE RIGHT THING, AS HER BOYFRIEND ...?

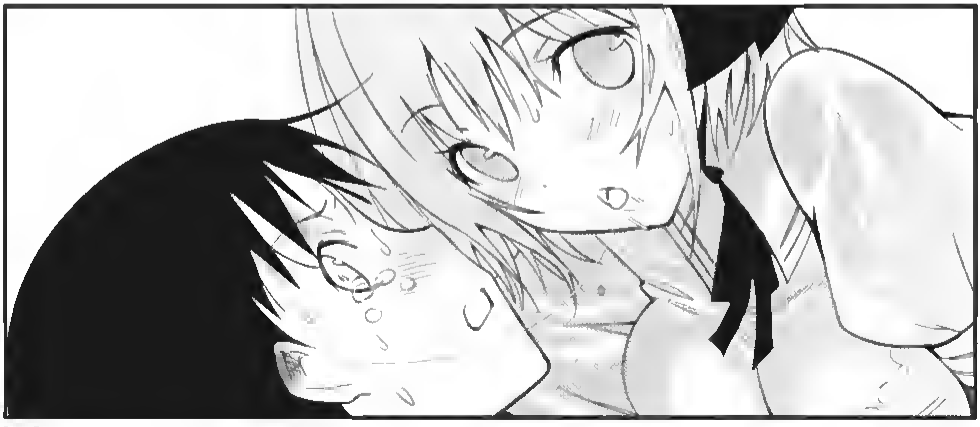

R...
... REALLY?


YOU CAN FORGIVE ME, RIGHT...?
ENOUGH OF THIS, OKAY?

OH NO!!
SENPAI, WAIT!
...
MINAGUCHI-KUN.....

YOWWWCH!!!!
CHOMP
A LITTLE PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR DIRTY THOUGHTS! ♡
EEEEK!
NO...SHE'S NOT JUST A SADIST...
THIS IS BEYOND NIBBLING ...
SHE'S TRYING TO TEAR MY EAR OFF!!
TUG
TUG
ICE 'REAM (NICE SCREAM). ♡
SHE'S A SUPER SADISTIC BULLY!!!
PANT
PANT
'O 'UTE (SO CUTE). ♡
MMPH.

I SEE YOU TWO ARE HAVING FUN.
MMM! ♡
GRIND
GRIND
OWWW-WWWW-WWWW.



Oops. I messed up! ♡
TEE-HEE!
The bathroom is that way.
SHE'S PISSED ……!!

UMI-KAI-SAN…!!?

WHAT CAN I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

...TALK MY WAY OUT OF THIS ONE!?
HOW CAN I...

APPEAL 4: A VOICE CALLING FROM BEYOND

THINK.....
THINK, THINK, THINK.
I'M THINK-ING.
IS THERE A REASON-ABLE EXPLANA-TION...
...TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE?
AN EXCUSE SHE'D ACTUALLY BUY?

I WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
HELL NO, THERE ISN'T!!!
SHE WALKED IN ON THE CRIME SCENE!

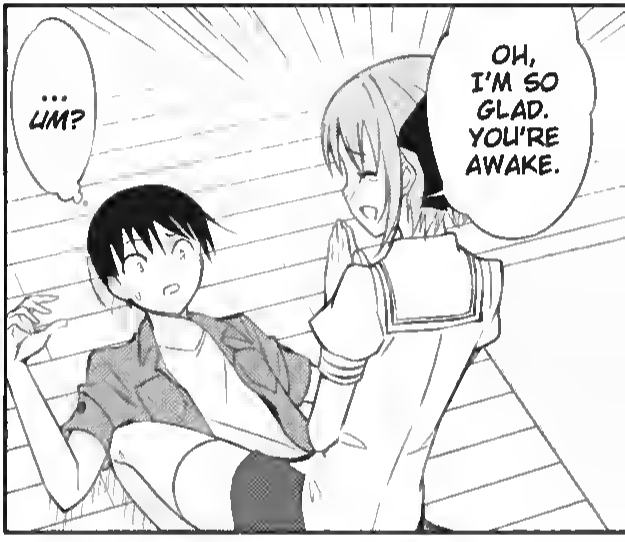
...HUH!?

DRIP
ポタッ

WAHHHH!
WAHHHH!

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!!
WHAT DID I DO?

HE JUST FAINTED AND FELL OVER!
...WHAT HAPPENED?


...UM?
OH, I'M SO GLAD. YOU'RE AWAKE.

...AH...
MINA-GUCHI-KUN.
YOU TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T HAVE A FEVER...

FEVER...
BECAUSE... EVEN WITH A FEVER, HE WAS UP AND ABOUT...!

YOUR CHEEKS ARE AWFULLY RED.
TINGLE
TINGLE
...THAT'S JUST 'COS SHE WAS SNACKING ON MY EAR...
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN HOSTING US...
... HMPH ...
I SEE. WELL... THAT MAKES SENSE.
POUT
THANK GOD ...
SHE BOUGHT IT...
BUT...
YOU SAVED ME, SENPAI...

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO BITE HIS EAR LIKE THAT?

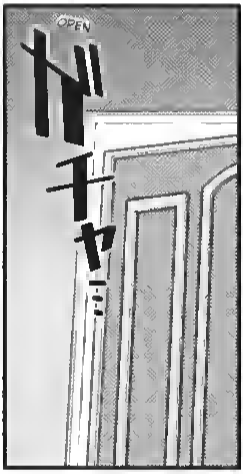
...SO SHE SAW THAT CLEARLY?
I'M DONE FOR...

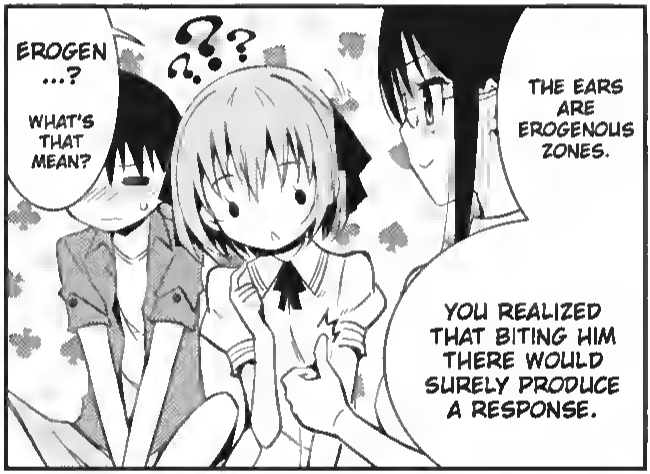
HM?
...ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE, THEY SAY.
... WELL ...

... EARS ...

HE WOULDN'T WAKE UP, NO MATTER WHAT I TRIED.
SO AS A LAST RESORT, I TRIED BITING HIM...!!
WHO'D BUY THAT, SENPAI ...?

HUUH !!?
RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.
うん
MMHMM.


OPEN
ガチャ


EROGEN ...?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
THE EARS ARE EROGENOUS ZONES.
YOU REALIZED THAT BITING HIM THERE WOULD SURELY PRODUCE A RESPONSE.

TAKE IT EASY AND GET OVER THAT COLD!
WE'LL BE LEAVING, THEN.
OKAY ...

PEEK
SHHH...
CLOSE

PFFFT!
PFFFFT!
...I'M SAFE...
THANKS TO SENPAI'S QUICK WITS...
...AND UMIKAI-SAN'S SECRET LOVE OF ALL THINGS LEWD...
WHAT ...?
DISAPPOINTED THAT THIS DIDN'T END IN A BLOOD-BATH?
OH, WHATEVER. WHAT DO I CARE?
I'M A NEET NO LONGER. TIME TO RETURN TO SCHOOL.
TODAY'S SATURDAY. YOU'VE GOT TWO MORE DAYS, BUB...!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE A NEET...
...THERE'LL BE MORE CHANCES TO EXPOSE YOU.
AH... RIGHT.

BUT WHYYYYY !!?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY!!
WITH YOU IN THE HOUSE, THERE'D BE NO END TO THE NASTY SHENANIGANS YOU'D GET INTO!!!
IT'LL BE EASIER TO KEEP THEM FROM MEETING ...
...I THINK.
PFFFT!
AT SCHOOL... THERE'RE A TON OF SPOTS WHERE I CAN RUN AND HIDE.
HERE IN THE HOUSE... EVERYONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND ME.
WHAAAAT?
I REALIZE IT'S TOO EASY FOR THE GIRLS TO BUMP INTO ONE ANOTHER HERE!
MONDAY
LEMME JUST MAKE SURE.

WUZZAT? YAWN.
...SHE'S NOT A MORNING PERSON ...
IT'S JUST... THEY'RE ALWAYS DOING THAT IN MANGA STORIES...
HUHH ?
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ...
...TO TRANSFER INTO MY SCHOOL OR ANYTHING .....?
GONNA GO TO ANIMATE TODAY.
SO BORED.
FOUND ONE CLOSE BY.
THINK THERE'S A MAID CAFÉ TOO...
WAKE UP.
WHAT IS IT?
...SO AT THE VERY LEAST, I'M SAFE FOR TODAY.
SAFE FROM THIS MEDDLING REAPER. I HOPE.....

...AND SAWA-TARI-SAN.
OOGA-WARA-SAN...
GOTTA FIND A WAY TO KEEP THEM QUIET ABOUT US ...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME THOUGH..... HERE'S HOPING I'M NOT TOO LATE.....
FIRST ...
...THE OTHER TWO GIRLS...
THAT'S WHAT THE BOOK I BORROWED FROM UMIKAI-SAN SAID, ANYWAY.
FOR SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT, WE'D BETTER MEET IN PERSON...
IT'S TOO EASY TO HAVE MIS-COMMUNICATION OVER THE PHONE OR TEXTS...
YUI KOBAYAKAWA
RISA UMIKAI
EMIRI OOGAWARA
AOI SAWATARI
ALL FOUR OF THEM .....!?
THEY TEXTED ME!?
... HMM?
BETTER FIND A PLACE WE CAN BE RELATIVELY ALONE.
AND PLAN A MEET FOR AFTER SCHOOL ...

...USE THEIR PHONES TO TALK TO NON-FAMILY MEMBERS TOO...
RIGHT... NORMAL PEOPLE...
TEXTS TOO...NEVER GOTTEN A TEXT THAT WASN'T SPAM, BEFORE.....

...BETTER APOLOGIZE TO ALL OF THEM LATER...
FIRST THOUGH, GOTTA SILENCE THEM...

...SO I HAD MY PHONE ON SILENT MODE BY DEFAULT ...
I NEVER THOUGHT TO CHECK ...
ZERO FRIENDS

BETTER START WITH OOGAWARA-SAN. SHE SEEMS KINDA VOLATILE...
IT SHOULD BE SAFE IF I INVITE HER TO THE ROOF AT LUNCH, RIGHT...?
THERE'S NEVER ANYONE UP THERE...

MINA-
GUCHI-
KUN.
MORRRNING.
AOI SAWATARI
(THE SPORTY ONE)
docomo
EMIRI OOGAWARA
.....
End Call

...SHE SAW
000000
FLIP
CLICK
SHE SAW.
EMIRI OOGAWARA
DID SHE SEE!?
End Call
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

I'M SO GLAD...
...YOU'RE OVER YOUR COLD!
SHE DIDN'T SEE ...
I GUESS ?
GOOD TO SEE YOU FEELING BETTER!
TH-THANKS.
SORRY I... NEVER GOT BACK TO YOU...
IT'S FINE!
STARE
じっ……

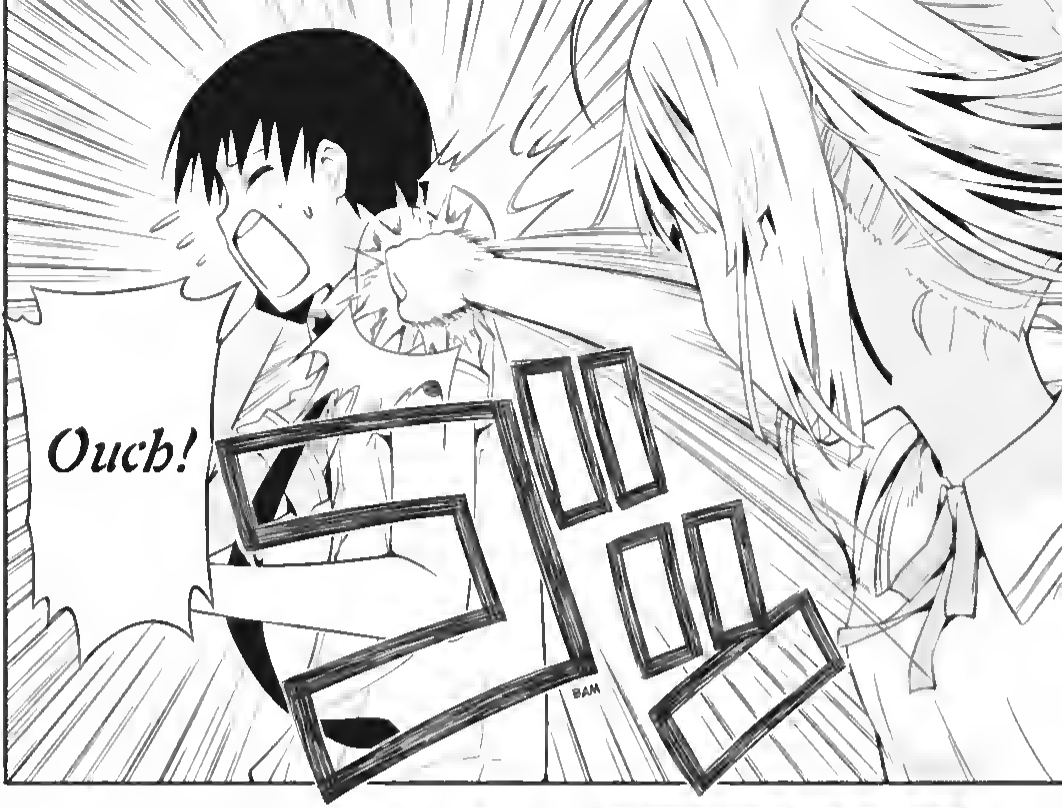
UHH... UH?
WHAT IS IT?
I GET EMBARRASSED WHEN PEOPLE STARE AT ME...
AH... SORRY ...
R-RIGHT. I'M OFF!
GOT MORNING PRACTICE.

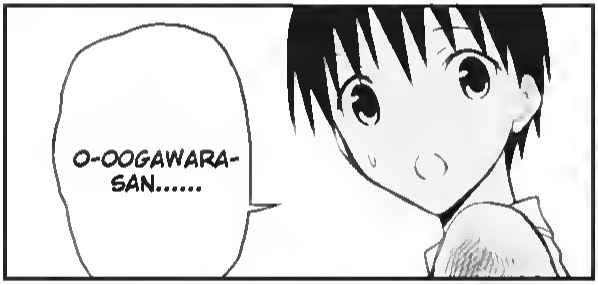
AH, SAWATARI-SAN!
YOU GOT ANY TIME AFTER SCHOOL ...!?
SORRRRY!
GOT PRACTICE THEN TOO!

NOW... BACK TO THIS...
YUI KOBAYAKAWA
RISA UMIKAI
EMIRI OOGAMI
AOI SAWATARI

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T SEE...
FROM HER RE-ACTION ...
GOOD THING SHE'S SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD...

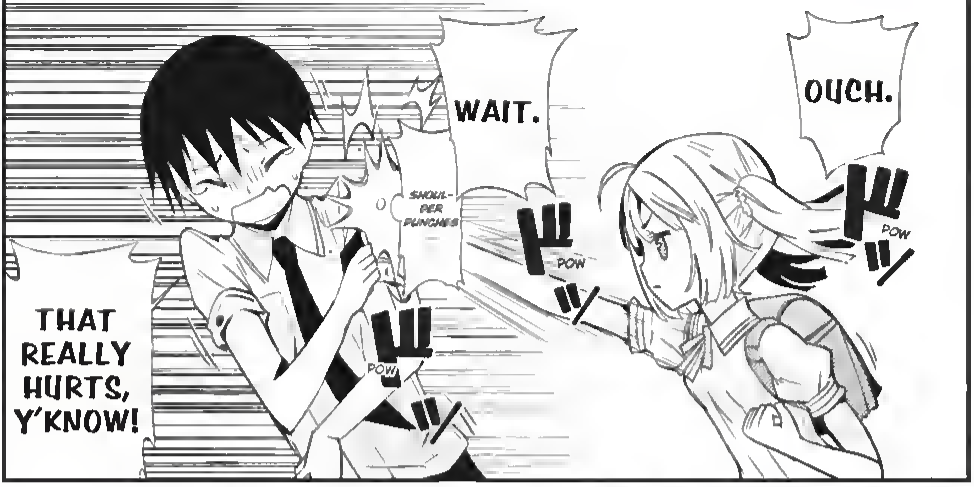
プルルルル……
RING
チャーラー
DING-A-LING
チャーラー
DING-A-LING
WHAT'S THAT SOUND ...?
DID I CALL THE WRONG NUMBER OR SOMETHING ...?
EMIRI OOGAWARA (THE PRINCESS)


Ouch!
BAM


O-OOGAWARA-SAN.....

OWW... HUH...?
AH!?

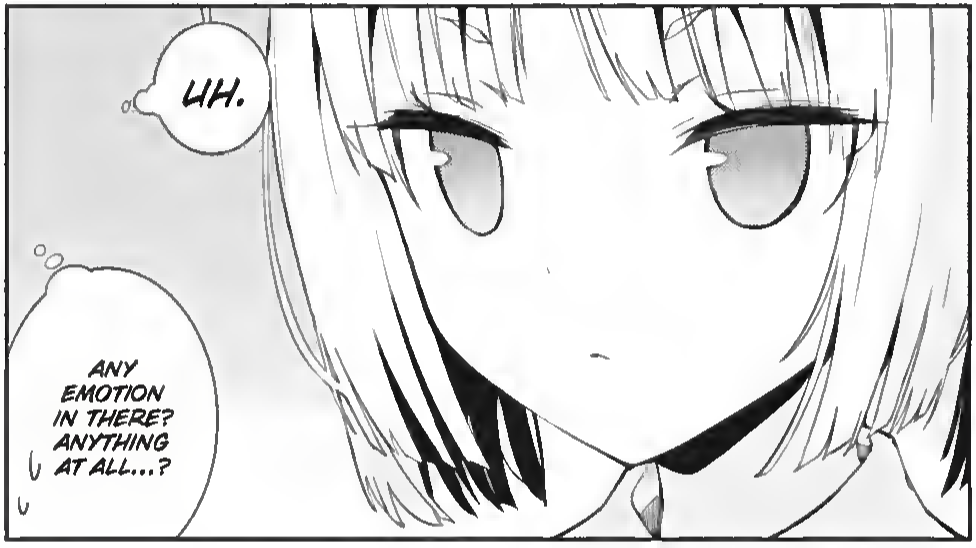
OUCH !!
POW


WAIT.
OUCH.
SHOULDER PUNCHES
POW
POW
POW
POW
THAT REALLY HURTS, Y'KNOW!

U-UMM.
POW
POW
YOUR TEXT.
SORRY I DIDN'T RESPOND ...

SHE'S DEFINITELY PISSED OFF .....!!
DID SHE SPOT ME WITH SAWATARI-SAN A SECOND AGO...!?
IS THAT IT...?

I WAS SICK IN BED THE WHOLE TIME. COULDN'T GET TO MY PHONE...
I'M REALLY SORRY!
GOOD... THAT WORKED ...


UH.
ANY EMOTION IN THERE? ANYTHING AT ALL...?

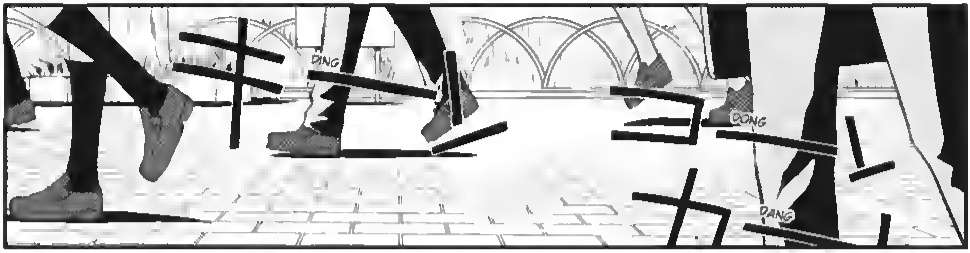
DO YOU MEAN IT...?
YOU FORGIVE ME? HONESTLY AND TRULY?
... WHATEVER.

... S'FINE ...
WHATEVER.
... UMM ...

WE'RE BREAKING UP.
STAB

W-W-WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING HASTY, HERE...
AHHH, PLEASE, WAIT!!
スタスタ
TMP
SORRY!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I FEEL TERRIBLE, SO GIMME ANOTHER CHANCE!?
...THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO SINCERE...
I MEAN IT!!
BOW
...ARE YOU STUPID?

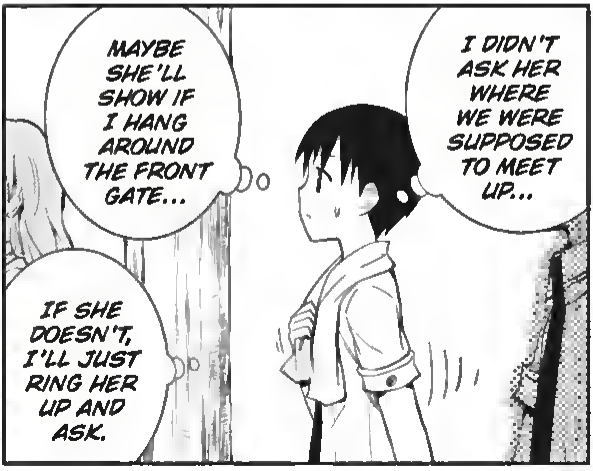
WHAT DO I DO...?
APOLO-GIZING WON'T WORK ...?
...I'LL BE WAITING. AFTER SCHOOL.
UM...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET SOMEWHERE AFTER SCHOOL...?
SHE MEANS ...
AND THEN SHE'LL FORGIVE ME...?


DING
DONG
BANG

AT LEAST I APOLOGIZED TO THE OTHERS ABOUT THE MISSED TEXTS.
BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY .....!!
SO GETTING OOGAWARA-SAN IN A GOOD MOOD TAKES TOP PRIORITY...!!

...I SHOULD TRY TO AVOID GOING OFF SOMEWHERE WITH HER, JUST THE TWO OF US...
IF I WANNA PLAY IT SAFE...

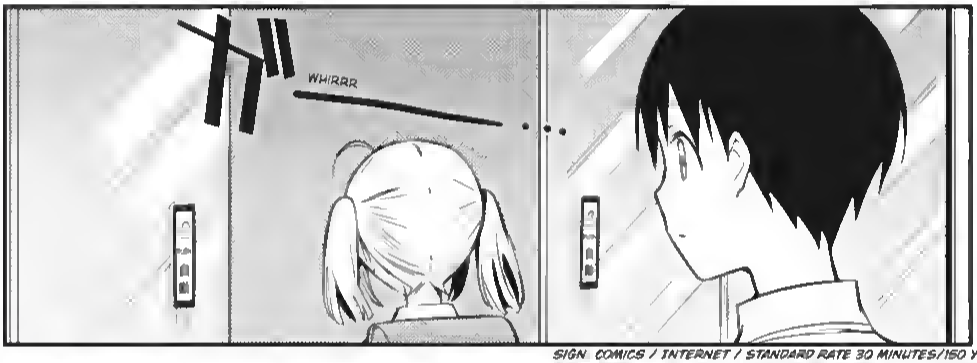
GOTTA KEEP OTHERS FROM SPOTTING US...


MAYBE SHE'LL SHOW IF I HANG AROUND THE FRONT GATE...
I DIDN'T ASK HER WHERE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET UP...
IF SHE DOESN'T, I'LL JUST RING HER UP AND ASK.

...SHE'S ALREADY HERE...
I RACED OUT HERE...BUT SHE MADE IT HERE FIRST...
THAT MAKES ME A BAD BOYFRIEND ...
...BUT WOW. THAT'S AMAZING ...
SO CUTE.
...EVEN JUST STANDING THERE SHE'S GETTING SO MANY STARES...
THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR ONE OF THE SCHOOL'S TOP CUTIES...
...I CAN'T APPROACH HER HERE !!
IF WE START TALKING HERE, THE RUMORS WOULD SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE...!!

...AH.
SHE NOTICED ME.
SPIN
HUUUH !!?
TMP
TMP
TMP

UMM ...
I THOUGHT ...
...WE WERE MEETING UP...?
WE LOCKED EYES, DIDN'T WE!?
I WAS SURE SHE SPOTTED ME!!
HEY... WAIT...
TMP
AT LEAST SHE'S NOT ANGRILY PUNCHING ME AGAIN...
BETTER FIND A PLACE WE CAN BE RELATIVELY ALONE.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
CAN I JUST FOLLOW HER, LIKE THIS.....?



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UMIKAI-SAN'S BOOK MENTIONED THIS...
...WHAT THEY CALL AN "INTERNET CAFÉ DATE"...?

EEK!?
FOUND YOU!!

I THOUGHT... SOMEONE SPOTTED ME...
JUST A REAL-LIFER COUPLE...
CLOSE

THERE YOU ARE.
LET'S HURRY ON IN THERE. ♡

...WHICH MEANS...

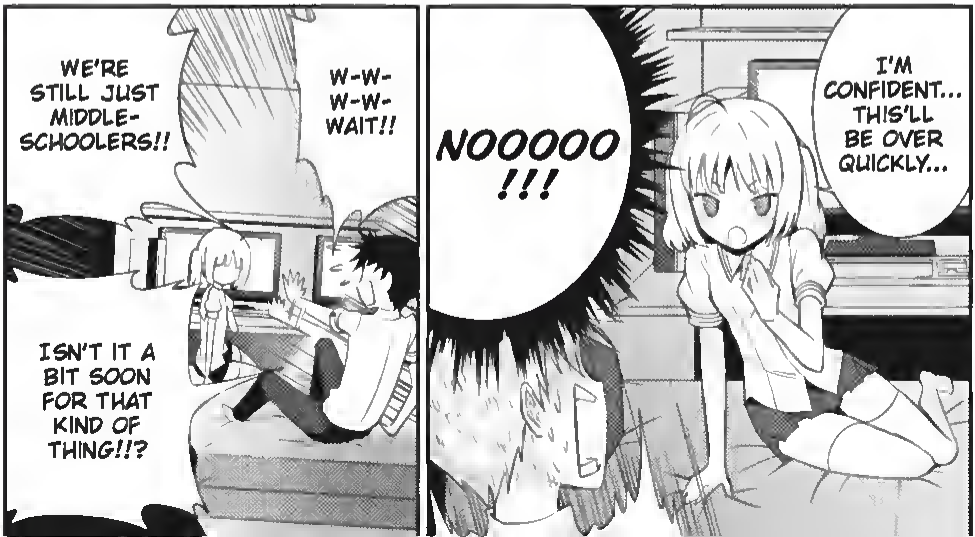
TO THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER ...
AH-HA-HA.
U-FU-FU.
...MAYBE WE ALSO LOOK LIKE A COUPLE OF REAL-LIFERS IN LOVE!?
...NOT A CHANCE ...
I'M NOT GETTING THAT FEELING AT ALL.
OPEN
カチャ...
I'M A FOUR-TIMER WHO'S GONNA DIE IF THIS GOES BADLY...
CLOSE
コト...
TMP
コト...!!
TMP

ABOUT THE TEXT THING.
UMM... I'M SORRY.
...SHE HASN'T UTTERED A SINGLE WORD TO ME...
SINCE WE LEFT SCHOOL ...
KNEW IT. SHE'S STILL MAD...
UGH.
NO RE-ACTION ...
IF YOU REALLY FEEL BAD ABOUT IT...
PROVE IT.
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
THUMP

SHE TALKED TO ME!!
... PROVE IT...?
PROVE THAT YOU REALLY LIKE ME ...
WHAT CAN I DO IN A ROOM LIKE THIS?
...SO WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
...WAIT. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS.....
IN THE WORLD OF REAL-LIFERS...
...SOME BRAVE SOULS HAVE ULTERIOR USES FOR NET CAFES...
IT'S KIND OF...
... LIMIT-ED...

HMM!?
NAHHH. NO WAY.
I'M WAY TOO ON-EDGE...
IT'S JUST 'COS I'VE BEEN STUDYING UP ON ALL THIS LATELY!
UMM... SO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, SPECIFICALLY ...?

I'LL DO IT, SO YOU JUST SIT BACK!
I'VE GOT EXPERIENCE .....!


W-W-W-W-WAIT!!
WE'RE STILL JUST MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS!!
ISN'T IT A BIT SOON FOR THAT KIND OF THING!!?
NOOOOO!!!
I'M CONFIDENT... THIS'LL BE OVER QUICKLY...

AGE DOESN'T MATTER IF THE WILL IS THERE.
MAYBE IF I JUST SHUT UP...
SHE IS THE ULTIMATE CUTIE, AFTER ALL...
MORALS...? THOSE ARE JUST RULES THAT ADULTS DECIDED ON...
WE SHOULD BE FREE TO DO AS WE PLEASE...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
AHHH...

PULL
SHE'S COMING AT ME STONE-FACED...
WHAT'S GOING ON.....?
FWIP
スッ……

IS SHE WHAT THEY CALL...
DROP
...AN "EASY" GIRL!!?

TO BE CONTINUED

PAPER: HOT AND RISING NEW IDOL YUI KOBAYAKAWA (14)

AND THE COUNCIL REP CANDIDATE WITH THE MOST VOTES IS...
...RISA UMIKAI.
BLACK BOARD: RISA UMIKAI - 15 VOTES
YOSHI AOKI - 7 VOTES
IT HAD TO BE UMIKAI-SAN, RIGHT?
SHE'S SO PUT-TOGETHER AND A GREAT STUDENT.
NOT TO MENTION PRETTY.
COUNCIL REP? JUST REMINDS ME OF EV●.
RUNNER-UP WOULD BE HANE● FROM ●MONO-GATARI ...
I WOULD END UP GOING OUT WITH HER.

OOH, IT'S LITTLE PRINCESS OOGAWARA!
THAT'S EMIRI-CHAN. SO CUTE! ♡
COMING TO SCHOOL IN A FANCY CAR LIKE THAT? WOW.
LIKE SHE'S STRAIGHT OUT OF A TV DRAMA.
IN THE NEWEST RELEASE OF KIMI HE TODOKE...
THAT'S THE CAR THAT HAYAKO-CHAN'S FATHER DRIVES!
I WOULD END UP GOING OUT WITH HER.

GOOD MORNING, AOI SAWATARI.
AH, MORNING.
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
ALWAYS READY TO GREET EVERYONE. WHAT A NICE GIRL.
PRETTY, AND SO CHEERY.
EVEN EARLY IN THE MORNING, SHE'S BURSTING WITH ENERGY.
ENERGY WOULD BE NICE.
I PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER PLAYING VIDEO GAMES ...
I WOULD END UP GOING OUT WITH HER.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: Gran、王 SPECIAL THANKS: 王上豪、黃宏棠

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

...WHAT THE HECK WAS UP WITH THAT DREAM?
ALMOST SEEMED LIKE I WAS THE VILLAIN, THERE...
WELL, AT LEAST I'D GET TO TAKE DOWN THE BRAVE HEROES IN THAT CASE.

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalant of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-sensei: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

"Real-lifer" and "no-lifer" are, roughly, terms to divide people into one of two societal categories. Real-lifers are those who can cope with the trials of everyday modern society (having a job, paying bills, being in relationships, etc.) while no-lifers tend to be more insular and prefer to live on the Internet. The oft-used term, *hikikomori*, is a more extreme version of the no-lifer who never leaves his or her house.

PAGE 49
Even before the advent of smartphones, most modern Japanese cell phones had infrared receivers and transmitters, which allowed people to exchange contact information automatically by bringing their phones together, as Kaoru does with Risa, Emiri, and Aoi.

PAGE 54
"Akiba" is short for "Akihabara," the Tokyo neighborhood that people consider to be nerd paradise. Airi must also be drawn to all the electronics and anime goods...

PAGE 66
NEET stands for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training," and is a disparaging term for young people in Japan who don't go to school or work, and who don't plan to do either. Kaoru's line, here, is also a vague reference to Eiichiro Oda's *One Piece*, whose protagonist, Luffy, often exclaims, "I'm gonna be king of the pirates!"

PAGE 158
Animate is one of Japan's preeminent anime goods stores, with branches in several major cities.

GRIM REAPER AND FOUR GIRLFRIENDS 1

Shin Suyama
CHuN [Friendly Land]

Translation: Caleb D. Cook • Lettering: D. Kim

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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